

the chronicle

**RUBY CELEBRATES
HITTING 100 AND
NOT OUT**
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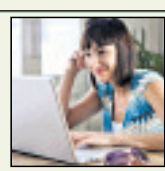
**ACTORS HAVE A
GHOST OF A
CHANCE**
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£20,000 bill for moving replica Titanic anchor

Moving a replica of the Titanic anchor just a couple of miles from the Black Country Living Museum to the town where the original was built will cost the council £22,000. Celebrations were being held in Netherton today to mark the 16-ton, 18-ft long anchor's return.

Dudley Council says the five-figure bill covers the cost of transporting and installing the model in the old market place near Netherton Arts Centre.

The authority had already paid out £20,000 towards the £40,000 bill for producing the replica, which was made for a programme by Twenty Television and screened on Channel Four last year. The remainder of the costs were covered by the production company.

Residents have been campaigning for it to come back to the town since it was taken and installed at the museum last year.

Council leader Les Jones said: "The money will go towards not only the transportation of the anchor but also the installation, displaying it properly and making sure it's safe and won't fall over." He said the cash would come from capital allocations, for example from Central Dudley Area Committee and the Dudley Community Partnership.

Campaign fails as fire station to close

A Black Country fire station will close as part of moves to merge it with a neighbouring site. Halesowen station is to be axed despite a campaign to save it.

The merger of the station with Cradley Heath was first agreed two years ago but plans were put on hold amid concerns from the public.

Over the last few months fire service bosses have revived the plans with a consultation launched on a new move to also axe one of the two 24-hour crews based at both stations. Campaigners have been urging the fire service to retain both stations as they fear the merger would leave the area poorly protected in an emergency.

However, bosses said they were sticking to their original plans. Bosses admitted firefighters would be based in either the current Cradley Heath fire station, a new rented site or a new purpose-built base.

It is likely the Halesowen station, Hagley Road, could be sold off as part of the move. Fire chiefs have also announced that a decision over whether to cut the number of crews will be taken in November.

Meanwhile around 160 jobs have been lost at West Midlands Fire Service since the start of a recruitment freeze, saving the cash-strapped service almost £7 million.

Action is demanded on 'poisonous gases'

People living in Cradley and Foxcote are breathing in potentially "poisonous gases" from traffic as pollution levels stay high in heavily congested parts of Dudley borough, it has been claimed.

Dudley Council leaders approved a new Air Quality Action Plan at a recent meeting of the cabinet.

But Councillor Gaye Partridge, for the Cradley and Foxcote ward, demanded action on the issue.

"People in my area are dealing with high levels of poisonous gases, basically in their living rooms," she said.

"I am looking for a commitment from this council that it will not sit on its laurels and allow places like Wordsley, Cradley and Netherton to be poisoned."

Council leader Les Jones is to ask engineers to examine re-instating bus lay-bys along busy roads such as Windmill Hill in Cradley to cut congestion and gases.

Multi-million pound plan rejected after protests

MOSQUE BID THROWN OUT BY COUNCIL

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Multi-million pound plans for a mosque and community centre along a busy gateway in the Black Country have been thrown out amid protests from thousands of campaigners.

But the door has been left open for Dudley Muslim Association to draw up a revised plan and it has been given extra three years to submit another application for the development.

It would have been built on the former Nuttall factory site, in Hall Street, under the controversial £6 million plans, which were scaled down by the association in a bid to appease protestors.

The complex would include leisure facilities, open to non-Muslims, as well as two cafes, a multi-use sports hall, a gym, a nursery and a permanent exhibition of Muslim beliefs.

But Dudley Council planners threw out the proposals this week, claiming the development would be out of character with the medieval features of the town including Dudley Castle.

Concerns

Concerns over traffic problems and the possibility of increased parking issues were also raised.

Speaking after the meeting committee chairman, Councillor Colin Wilson, said the people of Dudley would have been "dismayed and disillusioned" had the proposals gone through.

However, the association was successful in applying to extend the time limit to submit another planning application on the land within the next three years. And spokesman Mushtaq Hussain today said the organisation would not rule out appealing the rejection.

Police patrolled outside Dudley Council House last night as the plans were discussed in front of around 20 people in the public gallery.

A petition of more than 7,000 signatures was handed in during the meeting. The legal bill to halt plans for the mosque has cost the council £58,378.50. Three petitions opposing it attracted up to 80,000 signatures.

Dismayed - page 2

Staying loyal to healthier lifestyle



From left, Carole Dark, Julie Davies, Karen Hands join in the fun at Holland and Barrett, Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen for the launch party of the new loyalty card

A HEALTHY shop in Halesowen will be bursting with feel good activities as part of their new loyalty card launch.

The event will take place at the store, in the Cornbow Centre, on Thursday September 29, from 9am until 5.30pm.

There will be freebies on offer as well as tastings from local businesses including shoulder massages, reflexology and homeopathy, a hamper draw, yoghurt sampling and face painting, from 10am until 2pm.

Representatives from Meningitis UK

will also be on hand to offer information and advice. Julie Davies, manager at the store, said: "We wanted to do something special to mark the launch of the card and felt this was the perfect opportunity to join forces with different local businesses and help each other out during this financially difficult time."

The free card can be obtained from the store from September 29 giving customers the chance to convert points into pounds and be the first to receive the latest offers.

£500,000 of cannabis is seized



Pc Adam Brassington, from Dudley Police, surveys some of the cannabis

Hundreds of cannabis plants worth up to £500,000 have been discovered filling the restaurant and back rooms of a former curry house in Dudley town centre.

Forensic teams were at the empty former Shah-Ra Balti in Wolverhampton Street, near the junction with Southall's Lane, after officers discovered the factory. Sgt John Carey said initial estimates put the quantity at around 500 plants - each with a yield of around £1,000.

"It was a fairly sophisticated operation," he said. "They had insulated the walls and blocked the windows to keep heat in and stop passers-by from spotting what was going on."

Upstairs a crop had already been harvested and the leaves were being dried ready to be bagged and sold.

Sgt Carey said officers believe anyone at the building may have been disturbed and fled as they left the door unlocked and they were able to get in without forcing entry.

Traders last week spoke of their shock. Fazio Kousar, aged 27, works in Safety Net Accident Claims nearby. "It's a real shock - that place has been closed up and empty for a long time and we have never noticed anything unusual going on," she said.

A member of staff at Burgins News nearby, who did not wish to be named, said they had arrived at around 4.30am and got "the shock of their lives". "As far as we were concerned the building was derelict and boarded up. We never noticed anything," he said. "All the customers who have come in have commented on it and said how surprised they are."

Fight leads to drug bust

A fight between a cannabis grower and his girlfriend who "didn't appreciate" him using her home to produce the drug, led police to his mini-factory, a court heard.

Thirteen cannabis plants and hydroponic equipment was found by police when they raided the house where Lee Kerlew, aged 24, of Trysull Way, Dudley, had been growing the plants. Police responded following concern about a domestic incident. Prosecutor Mr Mark Cooper told Dudley Magistrates Court last week that his girlfriend "didn't appreciate" him installing the small farm in her house, and they began to argue.

Police were called and found the plants and equipment.

District Judge Michael Wheeler handed him a 12-month community order, with 16 hours of unpaid work to be completed.

Kerlew was also ordered to pay £85 costs.

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Stacie's job is a dream



Stacie Jones, aged 22, who has just started her new job

Former Halesowen College student Stacie Jones has landed her dream job as a reservoir geologist. The 22-year-old from Oldbury has just completed a MSc Degree in geology and geography at The University of Birmingham.

For the last few months she has been working part time as the earth sciences technician at Halesowen College while finishing her degree. Stacie, a former pupil of Oldbury College of Sport, has now started her new job at Ichon Limited, geological consultants based in Cheshire, specialising in underground reservoirs of oil and gas.

Latest show

Stourbridge Operatic Society has announced details of its latest production. Members will be staging La Cage Aux Folles which has been performed in the West End and Broadway. It will be running at Stourbridge Town Hall, in the Crown Centre, October 16 to 22. Call 07504 301767.

Dismayed leaders now considering an appeal

Muslim leaders in Dudley have spoken of their disappointment after their mosque and community centre plans were thrown out – and said they may appeal against the decision.

Council bosses rejected the plans for the mosque, claiming the £6 million development was out of keeping with Dudley's character. Dudley Muslim Association director Mushtaq Hussain said: "We are very disappointed with the refusal because we had discussions with planners from January onwards and at no stage did they disagree with the design."

Loss of trade fear on works

Traders have voiced fears that roadworks in Dudley will mean shoppers will find it difficult to park and could lead to a slump in business in the struggling town centre.

Business owners have also claimed they were not given enough information about exactly what was going to happen at the start of the 18 month project in April. Utility company officials set up tents and information desks along the town's High Street this week as part of a consultation into the controversial roadworks scheme ongoing in the town. Dudley Council officials organised the event to allay fears ahead of the next stage of works starting next week.

Wolverhampton Street will close from next Monday until November 30 for works to take place.

Housewife Alice Dovey, aged 34, of Birmingham New Road, Dudley, said: "It is good they held an event like this as I know a few people who work in shops around here and they were worried about it."

"Everything is so tough for people at the moment. I just hope the roadworks are finished soon because it has been awkward trying to park on Stafford Street car park when the road keeps getting dug up in different places all the time."

Trader Alan Caswell, who has long campaigned for more parking in the town, said: "I wish the council would have considered letting us have more spaces back on the old Stone Street square, even if they were just disabled spaces."

"It would just take the pressure off while the works are going on."

Janet Simpson, who runs Janet's Hair and Beauty Products in Wolverhampton Street, said she had already lost trade while work was carried out in nearby Stafford Street and she fears it will get worse when Wolverhampton Street is shut.

"If we had known at that stage then we would have taken appropriate action to go along with whatever they wanted. The board will now consider whether we will register an appeal or revise the application."

The association unveiled its plans for a mosque in January 2005 but proposals were withdrawn that April after more than 2,000 objections were submitted to the council.

Fresh plans were submitted in 2007, which were rejected. The association won an appeal with the condition a full application was submitted by July this year.

Concerns

Those plans were turned down last night after councillors expressed concerns that the estimated 750 worshippers would overwhelm the proposed 125-space car park.

The committee agreed to allow the association another three years to come up with a revised plan.

Committee member, councillor Margaret Wilson, said the site was at the gateway to Dudley and would not be in keeping with the character of the area.

"There would simply not be enough parking on the site," she added.

Councillor Geoffrey Southall said the development would have a "negative contribution" to the area.

Family chips in to help charities

THREE members of the same Halesowen family will be putting their hearts and soles into a fundraising run for charity next month.

Fish and chip shop owner Alan Parkes has recruited his two sons Scott and Robert to join him in the Birmingham Half Marathon, which takes place on October 23.

Experienced runner Alan has previously completed the London and New York marathons but this is the first time Scott, aged 24 and 17-year-old Robert have joined him.

They hope to raise thousands of pounds for charity, with half of their total going to Coeliac UK and the other half to an as-yet undecided local organisation.

"We wanted to ensure that some of the money we raised went to benefit a local charity, but that is as far as we have got," Alan, aged 48, said.

"We would welcome contact from any charity in the local area who would like to be considered for this donation."

Coeliac disease is an autoimmune condition which triggers a reaction to sufferers when they eat gluten causing damage to the lining of the stomach, affecting normal absorption and digestion of food.

The condition is life-long as there is no cure, with the only treatment being a totally gluten free diet.

"We cater for sufferers of this condition by dedicating Sundays to a gluten free menu," Alan, owner of Parkes fish and chip shop on



Owner of Parkes fish and chip shop, Alan Parkes, centre, with sons Scott, left, and Robert. The trio plan to run the Birmingham Half Marathon next month.

Mucklow Hill, added. "This has gone down well right across the region with sufferers travelling miles to sample the gluten free fish, chips, pies and sausages."

To nominate a charitable beneficiary of the Parkes fundraising exploits call Alan on 0121 647 9668.

School is set to expand

A Tivdale school is to expand to cope with a rise in pupil numbers after plans were approved. Plans for the work at Brades Lodge School include building three new classrooms and changing rooms.

They have now been approved by the council's planning officers.

The school, which caters for 25 pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties, moved into the former Tivdale Community Recreation Centre in Lower City Road last year.

It is the latest borough school set for expansion in Sandwell to cope with the rising demand on school places needed.

Earlier this year hundreds of new classroom places were needed across Sandwell, with more than 400 extra spaces needed by 2013 after the borough's birth rate surged by 30 per cent. The £9 million expansion of Shireland Hall Primary, Smethwick will begin in March 2012.

More than 200 places will be created and school bosses want to build a base next to the current site in Edith Road. Meanwhile Tameside Primary in Wednesbury and Uplands Manor Primary School, Smethwick are also due to be extended.

New leopard

A young snow leopard will be making his home at Dudley Zoo after being transferred from Norfolk as part of a rare animal breeding programme. Margash was born at Banham Zoo a year ago. His two sisters Rebecca and Ziva are set to move to Howletts Zoo, in Kent, and Krefeld Zoo, in Germany.

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Police to call time on drinking in the street

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Police in Brierley Hill have launched a campaign to stop people drinking in the street – and have started banning them from the area. The neighbourhood team has launched a campaign.

Notices will be issued banning people from several town centre streets if they are spotted acting anti-socially. The neighbourhood officers decided to act after spotting a group regularly congregating and drinking in High Street, annoying shoppers and disrupting businesses.

Police have introduced powers allowing officers to order drinkers to leave the area immediately. They will be banned from returning for a length of time which is decided by the police officer concerned. The length of the ban varies but is usually up to two days.

Affected

Besides the High Street, other roads affected by the notice are Bell Street South, Pearson Street, Venture Way and all pubs in the area.

Pe Ross Morgan, of the Brierley Hill neighbourhood team, said: "If people have been issued with a notice they are required to leave the location immediately and will be excluded from the locality for a period of time."

"This will be decided by the issuing officer but it can be anything up to 48 hours."

"If they return to the location before the agreed time frame they will be arrested."

A group of around 10 people, ranging in age from 20 to 50, have been noticed regularly drinking in public in the area.

Local people can follow initiatives by the neighbourhood team at www.dudleypolice.org.uk, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dudleypolice and Twitter at www.twitter.com/dudleypolice

Open day at leisure centre



Fitness crew members Kirk Wildman and Matt Honeyghan preparing for the event

People are being urged to get on the road to fitness with an open day at a Black Country leisure centre later this month.

Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, will be holding the event on September 24. The centre's fitness crew will be offering free taster sessions of their new extreme 30 minute classes Circuit30, ViPR30 and Kettlebell30 at 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am.

Fitness staff will also be carrying

out free gym inductions on the day between 8am and 4pm. People interested in the body strengthening barbell class Body Pump can also learn new moves and routines by attending the 9.30am masterclass.

Zumba dance fitness sessions are also available at the gym and a masterclass will take place from 11.30am.

For more information visit Sandwell Leisure Trust's website at www.slt-leisure.co.uk or call Haden Hill Leisure Centre on 0845 659 4815.

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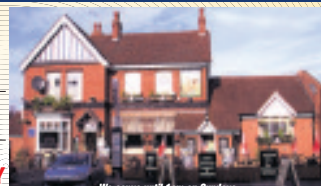
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Groups to run centres under council scheme

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Plans to shake up the running of community centres in Dudley have been given the go-ahead by borough bosses.

Local authority chiefs discussed proposals to give residents and volunteer groups the chance to take over the day-to-day running of some of the council's 30 centres at a meeting of the cabinet on September 14.

Leader Councillor Les Jones told the meeting that there were no plans, at this stage, to close any of the centres. "Nothing in this report, either public or secretly, is about closing centres," he said. "This is a review so we know what assets we have got and how we can best use them."

"The reality is there are some dysfunctional centres, where one group of the community uses them to the exclusion of everyone else, and we don't want that. I won't say there will never be a community centre closed, as that would be silly. Things can change."

Questioned

Opposition councillors questioned how the council planned to continue supporting community centres, and how plans to "cluster" community centres would work.

Councillor Tim Crumpton added: "It can be difficult sometimes to get someone who is willing, out of the goodness of their own heart, to run these centres. It's a huge change to the way things are run and it is concerning."

It is hoped the move will safeguard the future of community centres in the area. The cost of maintaining and upgrading buildings has soared, with previous estimates putting costs at £2.6million.

Speaking after the meeting, adult services boss Councillor Lesley Faulkner said future meetings would put the "meat on the bones" of the plans.

"At the moment this report simply outlines our strategy for the future of the centres," she said. "The detail will follow at a later date."

Event raises £1,157 for ward

Kind-hearted sisters from the Black Country have raised more than £1,000 for a hospital ward by staging a charity concert.

More than 100 people packed out the event held at the Russells Hall Social Club in Dudley bringing in a total of £1,157.

It was organised by sisters Gloria Donovan and Edna Drake, both from the town, who worked flat out since June to get the event off the ground.

The cash was presented to staff from Russells Hall Hospital's Georgina Ward.

Mrs Donovan, aged 68, decided to stage the event to "give something back" after being treated at the ward earlier in the year.

She and her sister, who is aged 61, planned the event which included a DJ, raffle and meal. Visitors also donated cash for the award on the evening.

They were able to organise using the social club for free and the DJ agreed to work for free so all of the proceeds could go to the ward.



Russells Hall Georgina Ward staff, back from left, Christine Protheroe, Dr Rozenn Allerton and Karen Anslow with fundraisers Edna Drake and Gloria Donovan

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Extra checks for council tenants

People wanting to move into the first new council houses to be built in Dudley for 20 years are set to be subjected to additional checks before being allowed to do so.

Work is under way at five sites after the council secured £4.3 million in funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

They include a scheme for a dozen homes at Blackthorn Road, Wordsley, a 19-property development on a

former council garage site on Wood Road, Lower Gornal, a 22-property development on a former council-owned plot on Norwood Road, Brockmoor, a six-property development on a former garage site on Tenacre Lane, Upper Gornal, and a 13-property site on a garage site and former council compound at Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank.

Council chiefs said if the extra checks worked well they could be

rolled out to include other council tenants.

Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning, said: "Anyone who is considered for our new build properties will be visited at home and have to provide references. If these measures prove useful, we may extend them to other lettings in the future."

The move was set to be formally given the go ahead by Councillor Turner.

Tribute to our Battle of Britain heroes

A tribute to the heroes of the Battle of Britain has been held in Dudley.

The day's commemorative events included a service at St Thomas and St Luke's Church, known as Top Church.

Cadets from the borough's Air Training Corps led a procession through the town centre and the Mayor and a Wing Commander from RAF Cosford received a salute when those on parade passed the council house.

The parade ended at the Cenotaph in Ednam Road, where a short service took place including a period of silence and the laying of wreaths. The event was organised by Dudley Council to remember those involved in the Second World War battle of the skies. This year marks the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Among those who took part in the occasion were cadets from 347 Dudley, 2488 Kingswinford, 2156 Brierley Hill and 223 Halesowen. Veterans from the Netherton branch of the Royal British Legion and the Dudley RAF Association also took part.

Netherton RBL branch member Ernest Robinson, aged 87, said: "I think it is very important to remember the battle."



Air cadets on parade in Dudley in tribute to heroes of the Battle of Britain



RBL members Ken Pearson, 71, Brian Thomas, 59 and Ernest Robinson, 87

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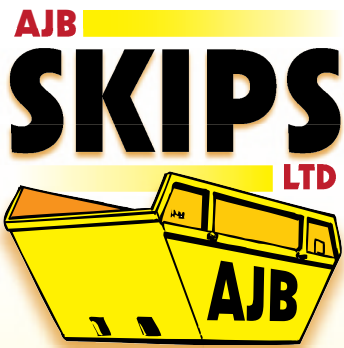
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thechronicle

Tributes to boy who died of heart failure

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Tributes have been paid to a Black Country teenager who died of heart failure after collapsing on the beach while playing football with his family.

James Lowe, aged 15, of Brierley Hill had been on holiday in Devon with his parents Chris and Angela and his 12-year-old brother Thomas when he was taken ill.



James Lowe, left, and brother Thomas

This photograph, released by his family, shows James and Thomas near the beach on holiday just days before his collapse. Despite the efforts of the lifeguards, an off-duty doctor, firemen and anaesthetist at the scene, James died later at North Devon Hospital in Barnstaple.

His father Chris, 46, said their extended family had joined them for an extra couple of days at the end of their traditional summer break to Croyde. "We had only been playing football on the beach for three or four minutes and he had seemed fine running around," he said. "I remember him saying he didn't want to play any more as he appeared to suddenly trip and fall face first onto the sand."

Muscles

West Bromwich Albion fan James had been born with an undiagnosed genetic syndrome which affected the development of his bones and muscles and suffered heart problems which saw him make regular trips to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

But despite his mobility problems, Mr Lowe said James lived life to the full and was a popular pupil at Redhill School in Stourbridge. He had been taking golf lessons, enjoyed music and was due to become a prefect at school this term. "James always tried so hard in everything he did and we are so proud of him and the person he had become," added Mr Lowe, of Stamford Road.

Around 1,000 tributes have been left on the website Facebook which Chris says has been comforting to the family during the difficult last few days. Dozens of condolence cards have also arrived at the family home.

James died on August 28.

Close shave for charity



Joanne Smith prepares for the fundraiser with friends Michelle Brown, left, and Michelle Woodall

A hairdresser from Dudley is hoping to raise £2,000 for the hospital ward where she has received treatment for cancer by having her head shaved at a charity raffle.

Joanne Smith, of Gough Road, Coseley, wants to bring in the cash as a thank you to staff at the Deansley Ward of New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

The 47-year-old will stage the event at her shop JP's Hair Design, in Wrens Nest Road,

Dudley, on September 24 and other shops in the area have donated items for prizes.

Joanne's 21-year-old daughter Danielle, who took over managing the hairdressers when her mother became ill, will wield the clippers.

Joanne was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer last year. Cash raised from the event will go to the Snowdrop Foundation, which is based at the hospital's Deansley Ward.

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Expansion on the horizon for leading window firm

ENERGY Seal, in Planetary Road, Wednesfield, has a 20-strong workforce, striving to be the very best at what they do in all aspects of the industry.

And despite the shrinking economy, the local company has grown to become one of the leading manufacturers of uPVC windows, doors and conservatories in the West Midlands – so much so that the company is looking to expand in the near future, creating more jobs.

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The company is a family-run business with two brothers, David and Richard Carter, at the helm. Director of sales, David, says: "We aim to give our customers the very best service the industry can offer."

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Richard, trade director, adds: "When we started manufacturing, we had three employees. Three years on we now employ 10 fabricators, two fitting teams and six office staff."

"We are always looking to expand our business

so we can create new jobs for local people. Because we offer such an excellent service, most of our work comes from recommendations so this gives us the opportunity to grow. We also supply to the trade industry."

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Jane Carter, operations manager, looks out over the vastly expanding uPVC company



Kathy Davidson, accounts manager, and projects coordinator Katy Goldson, keeping up with the day-to-day running of the business at Energy Seal, based in Planetary Road



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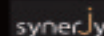
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thechronicle

Garden visitor was a raccoon



Ricki the raccoon is looked at by a vet

Mysterious goings-on in a Black Country garden in the middle of the night were finally solved when the owner discovered they were the work of tricky Ricki the raccoon.

Retired nurse Alison Rees, aged 52, was puzzled after finding the roots of plants in her Brierley Hill garden chewed up, the bolt on a kennel pulled across, dog toys dragged out and paw marks up the side of the house. But finally, after being awoken by a scratching noise, she looked out and saw that it was a raccoon, an animal native to North America.

Alison then started putting cat food down for Ricki and, after trying

in vain over the next month to find out where she had come from, called in Birmingham's Animal House Rescue charity, which is now looking after the raccoon. "She's very inquisitive and clever and even got into the kennel in the garden," said Alison. Lynne Reeves, aged 48, of Rubery, near Halesowen, of the Animal House Rescue, managed to trap Ricki in a cage. Animal House Rescue is carrying out research to find out what kind of environment would suit Ricki best and in the meantime, is asking anyone who knows how to handle raccoons and wishes to take her on to call Lynne on 0121 475 8729.

Purrfect pictures of your cats

There is just under a month left for budding feline photographers to enter a competition organised by the Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection.

The 12 winning entries from the competition will be used to create a special branch calendar which it is hoped will help raise funds for the organisation. Entry costs £1 per photo and the closing date is October 8.

A panel of branch volunteers, a local photographer and Jo Day, a vet from Vets 4 Pets in Dudley, will judge the entries. The winners will be announced at an event to mark the launch of the calendar in November. Entry forms are available from the branch shop in Lower High Street, Stourbridge or online at www.stourbridgecats.org.uk.

Rob Hall, Volunteer branch co-ordinator said: "Following on from our very successful competition last year which received more than 150 entries, we're again hoping to inspire local people to take a snap of their cat to help support other cats and kittens."

Why Adam, 21, is top of the plots

Young gardener Adam Greathead is watching his awards collection grow after picking up more than 15 trophies and medals during the summer show season.

The 21-year-old has been busy taking his prized produce to flower and vegetable competitions and battling it out against other growers.

He has won high praise for his chrysanthemums, which he grows undercover on his plots at Charles Road Allotments in Stourbridge.

And his giant leeks have also caught the judges' attention at shows in Stourbridge, Chaddersley Corbett, Belbroughton, Stourport and Bewdley. The former Hagley RC School pupil caught the gardening bug when he was 13 and got his first allotment.

Two years later he received the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Award after setting up a horticultural business selling hanging baskets and plants at his school.

Adam, of Stambermill, Stourbridge, works at Highdown Nursery in Iwerley.



Prize-winning gardener Adam Greathead, aged 21, with his haul of medals

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thechronicle

Promise on £6m archives centre

Dudley Council's leader has vowed that a new £6 million centre to house the borough's archives will go ahead.

But he admits there was no investigation into whether the existing building could be extended. The new base is due to go up on the site of the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory in Tipton Road near the Black Country Living Museum.

It would replace the present building at the former Mount Pleasant School in Coseley where some cam-

paigners think the documents should stay.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has revealed he recently wrote to Councillor Les Jones, leader of Dudley Council, asking what consideration the authority had given to extending the existing site instead of spending a total of £13.4 million – the cost of the £6 million building plus interest payments on the 60-year loan for the project.

Mr Austin said: "The council has not done enough to assess the viability of

expanding and improving the present site at Mount Pleasant. Decisions to commit large amounts of taxpayers money to projects such as this should not be taken lightly. Surely before such a large sum of taxpayer's money is committed, much more detailed work needs to be done to explore this option?"

But Councillor Jones said: "There is no way that the fabric of the building at Coseley would be fit for purpose so there was no reason to carry out a feasibility study."

Family gathers to celebrate with Ruby who's '100 not out'



Ruby Allen celebrating her 100th birthday in Studley, Warwickshire, with her grandson Nick Allen, aged 21



Ruby's late husband, Fred, on his last day at the market in 1981 with granddaughter Katie and grandson Christopher



Ruby, right, with older sister Dorothy and brother Arthur, who died in the First World War

Veteran Black Country market trader Ruby Allen reckons she's "like the cricket – 100 and not out" after celebrating her own century.

Ruby, who ran a china stall at Dudley Market with her late husband, Fred, for four decades, has turned 100, but still cooks for herself and gets out and about. She puts the secret of her long life down to "fresh air and hard work".

Born Ruby Florence Williams in her family home in Prospect Road, Dudley, on September 7, 1911, she lived there until she married Fred in 1942.

The couple then ran their china

stall – a family business dating back to 1865 – until she retired at the age of 70. She and Fred then moved to Ispley, near Redditch, where she still lives.

Before leaving Dudley they lived in Grainger Street and then New Birmingham Road and they had one son, Martyn, who died, aged 52, in 1997.

Grandchildren

They have two surviving grandchildren, Katie and Nick, although their brother, Christopher, died aged only 18 in 1991.

Ruby celebrated her 100th birthday with an afternoon tea with 60 friends and relatives in Studley, Warwickshire, and was thrilled to receive a card from the Queen, a telegram from

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan-Smith, and a signed photo from the cast of Coronation Street. Corrie is her favourite television show and has watched it since it started out in black and white 50 years ago.

Ruby said: "I've lived a clean life and couldn't ever afford to smoke and drink."

"I still feel healthy and happy. It's like the cricket – I'm 100 and not out."

Ruby asked for donations instead of presents to the Primrose Hospice in North Worcestershire and her party raised £500.

She said after the event: "It's been marvellous. I can't thank all my friends enough, they are so kind."

Small danger roads to get grit

Dangerous small roads across Worcestershire – previously ignored by gritting vans – will be included in this year's rounds in a bid to make winter driving conditions safer.

While previously only main roads were gritted, a new policy has been introduced meaning any steep, high or north-facing roads will also be visited.

Roads which provide a route to shops and schools, medical supplies, emergency care services or businesses will also be included.

The decision, to be discussed at a meeting of the county council's environment scrutiny committee on Thursday, was made after two consecutive severe winters left many drivers stranded.

Cancelled

December last year was the coldest in a century, with temperatures plunging to 8F(13C) in parts of the West Midlands.

Trains had to be cancelled due to frozen tracks and fuel freezing in its

tanks, and flights suffered severe delays.

And motorists across the region were forced to abandon their vehicles at the side of the road after being caught in snow drifts.

A report published ahead of the meeting said: "We recommend that other roads should be prioritised for treatment if they meet certain criteria."

There is special case for keeping routes to schools open and feel this should be a priority."

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Bus station work is ride on time

Stourbridge's new £7 million bus station is taking shape with work on the roofing and main building gathering pace.

Contractors have been based at the Foster Street East complex since the old station closed in October.

Some of the roof panels have now been installed on the main building and the 60-metre-long retaining wall has been completed.

The new Stourbridge Interchange is due to open for passengers next year.

Transport authority Centro spokesman Pete Cameron said: "Work is continuing to progress on the redevelopment of the new Stourbridge inter-

change and it remains on target to open in early 2012. The steelwork frames for both buildings and the first stage of the roofing for the main building have now been completed. As the project moves forward work will continue to complete the buildings and external works around the site."

He added: "The new station will provide major improvements for passengers in Stourbridge and we are pleased that the work remains on track." The station will have an improved concourse and electronic timetable boards as well as help points and a public address system.

A subway linking the town centre

with the bus station is being extended to bring commuters into the middle of the station. A shop could also be based at the station although transport chiefs say nothing has been finalised yet.

A free shuttle bus has been operating to and from the town centre while work takes place. Passengers have been using temporary bus stops set up in Birmingham Street, High Street, Market Street and Parkfield Road.

Bosses have been reviewing the usage of the shuttle bus, deciding every few months whether to keep it going. Last month, they announced they will keep the shuttle running until the development is completed.

Abusive man is hit with fine

A drunk reveller who was hit twice with a stun gun outside a busy nightclub after being abusive to staff and police has now been hit with a £565 court bill.

Sean Long, 25, was thrown out of Hustlers in Dudley after he was found with blood pouring from his head.

Long, a security guard, tore off his shirt and started smearing blood on the walls of the club, Dudley Magistrates heard.

After police arrived he hurled abuse at an innocent bystander outside the King Street club and was "faster" after trying to bite officers, the court heard.

Mr Gerry Vahey, defending Long, of Tryan Road, Nuneaton, said it was believed he had been hit with a metal bar in the June 19 incident.

Long was fined £50 for criminal damage, £200 for obstructing an officer and £150 for using behaviour likely to cause fear of violence. He admitted all charges. He was also told to pay £150 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

On paper they are the best

Bernard Williams has a top tip for growing hanging baskets like the lush ones that grace his house - line them with a newspaper.

Bernard, aged 74, from Stourbridge, crunches up the pages to hold water and provide a moist cocoon for the plant's roots. And he reckons it is the best display in the area, with the flowers growing down to about two feet from the floor.

Bernard, a grandfather of four and father of two, has three large hanging baskets, measuring about 18 inches across, around his home in Richmond Grove, Wollaston.

"I've had people knocking on the door to ask how I get them to grow that big," said Bernard, who lives with his wife, Janet.

"I follow Victorian ideas to make the best of my hanging baskets and line them with an old pullover instead of moss. I've been reading the local paper since I was 15 and I cut that up and layer it half way up the basket before putting my own compost up the rest."

"It's the same as when I was at school and we used to put a bean into blotting paper and watch it grow - the paper keeps the roots moist. I also don't plant them until after June 1."



Bernard Williams with one of his hanging baskets - lined with newspaper

Advertisement

Case file: Betty's story



Betty: Finding relief after undergoing dental implant surgery

Case file: Peter's story

Why I'm still smiling six months on

SIX months on after receiving denture implants following a catalogue of unresolved problems Peter is still thrilled with his new smile.

He recalls the terrible experience he endured before being prescribed his new teeth by the Denture Clinic, saying he wished he could have encountered clinical dental technician Steven Burchell sooner.

"I had four sets of dentures made, eventually having to be given a refund because none of them would remain secure in my mouth. My experience

now is very different. Nothing deters me from eating any particular meal,

"I have had no need of any follow-up treatment, the fit is just perfect and the stability is just like your own teeth. I have had not a single sore spot and the fit is as good now as when I had them fitted," said the 61-year old.

Peter adds that "the natural look" would challenge any onlooker to realise his teeth were not his own.

"The film industry is full of people with implants, but they often don't look as natural as the teeth I have been given.

"While initial costs may appear high, having considered the long-term benefits of the treatment, I felt confident I was making the right decision and that has certainly been proved over the last six months." The experience was totally professional and I would feel confident recommending Mr Burchell to other patients."

The implant surgery was carried out by implantologist Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the Denture Clinic has a long-established working relationship.



Peter: Implants were the right decision

Transformations

Years of pain ends after dental implant procedure

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery. Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and seen a specialist but was still without relief," she said.

Clinical dental technician Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum has receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she said.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain," she added.

Denture Clinic
01384 348594
5 North St, Dudley, DY2 7DT
denture-clinic.co.uk
info@denture-clinic.co.uk

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums - a naturally occurring aging process. "When people do not have any natural teeth remaining, the bone will shrink away. For dentures not to fit snugly after this amount of time is not

unusual. All patients with dentures need to have regular 12-monthly checks," he added.

"We knew that by going down the implants route we could considerably increase her bite and we hoped for an improved outcome on her condition."

"We would never have dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain."

The implants were fitted by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc of Parkside Dental Practice, Park Road West, Wolverhampton.

"My memories of horrible dental work from 30 years ago are far removed from today's treatment. It wasn't painful having the implants, and took about 20 minutes to complete the surgery," recalled Betty.

"I was looked after very well by Jonathon and his staff before and after surgery and they answered any queries I had."

"I now have my new dentures which were fitted by Steven. I think they look really good and I am so surprised at how well I can eat. I am not biting on the nerve anymore. Wonderful!"

"I never felt rushed during the whole process, Steven gives you all the time you need to get the denture you want."

thechronicle

Car firm's expansion plan to create jobs

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A Stourbridge car company is set to expand into Sandwell creating 10 jobs, under new plans.

Bosses of Stourbridge Autos have bought the site of the former Timbertrees Nursery in Cradley Heath and want to open the new used car sales business with workshops and offices.

The land was earmarked for housing before. Proposals outlining the plans have been lodged with Sandwell Council's planning department.

The site was among parcels of land sold off by cash-strapped Sandwell Council to raise money.

It has been empty for nearly four years after pupils moved across to the main school site in Valley Road.

It covers 0.4 acres and was marketed by Bigwood Chartered Surveyors, with "potential for residential development".

A planning application submitted to the authority states the new plan would create six full-time jobs and four part-time jobs.

Redundant

A design and access statement which accompanies plans from Acp Architecture Ltd adds: "Clearly there is a real need within the locality to bring this currently redundant site back into use to improve the overall street scene along Graingers Lane which has over more recent years deteriorated, with a number of premises now lying empty and susceptible to vandalism."

The buildings at the site would include two offices, staff and toilet facilities, two bays for servicing and two for car valeting.

Councillor Ian Jones, cabinet member for jobs and economy at Sandwell Council, said: "I welcome the investment of new jobs coming into the area and I hope that the company can work with the authority to be able to get it started as quickly as possible."

"I look forward to seeing what plans are made for the site and always welcome any investment coming into Sandwell."

The old nursery building is fondly remembered in the community.

It was known as Cradley Heath Nursery until 1998 when it became the Timbertrees Nursery. The last children moved out in August 2007.

Ghostly chance for actors



Getting ready for the Halloween specials are James Bradley and Mark Allen with back, from left, David Owen, Debbie Agnew, James Kloda and Trishma Dheer

Dudley Canal Trust is on the lookout for budding actors and actresses to star in its Halloween extravaganza next month.

The attraction will be running horror-themed boat trips from October 24 to 31. It is hoping to recruit volunteers to help out in the Dudley Caverns to bring the spooky sights to life for visitors.

General manager June Hodgetts said people needed to be 18 or over but previous acting experience wasn't necessary.

"Dudley Canal Horror is looking

for enthusiastic actors and actresses who are eager to participate and play a key role both in the caverns and outside areas," she said.

To book a place, call 01384 236275.

The trust is also planning Bonfire Night trips and its annual Santa Specials in December. Anyone interested in taking part in the Halloween shows can contact Greg Rudevics at The Ded Ted Horror and Fantasy Make-up Company at ded_ted@hotmail.com

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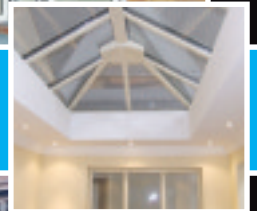
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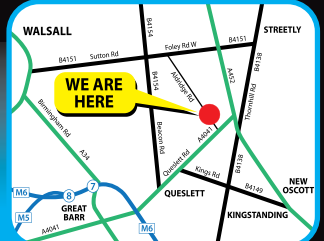
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Busby Babe Edwards to be remembered

New head for school



New Hurst Hill Primary head Caroline Dingle with pupil Skye Dunn and, top left to right, Alex Zinkal, Kayleigh Thompson, Alfie Booker, and Lucy Palmer

A headteacher has been given a warm welcome by staff and pupils after taking over at a Black Country school.

Caroline Dingle has been appointed head of Hurst Hill Primary, in Hurst Hill, Cosely, after working for four years as deputy head of a school in Peterborough.

And the 36-year-old mother of one said it felt like "coming home" as she was born in nearby

Sedgley and moved to Wolverhampton at the age of nine. During her career as a music teacher she has worked in Staffordshire, North Yorkshire and Leicestershire.

Mrs Dingle is a singer and can also play piano, flute and saxophone.

She studied and qualified to become a headteacher while on maternity leave with her now 18-month-old daughter Felicity.

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Memories of Dudley's Duncan Edwards are being sought for an event to commemorate what would have been the football star's 75th birthday next month.

St Francis Church, which hosted his funeral, and has two stained glass windows dedicated to his memory, is holding a weekend of celebrations to mark the occasion on October 1 and 2.

Duncan was born in Dudley and lived in Elm Road, on the Priory estate, attending Priory Primary School and Wolverhampton Street Secondary School.

He played in the legendary Manchester United squad, dubbed the Busby Babes after manager Matt Busby, and was capped by England 18 times.

Fuelling

He died at the age of 21 after a plane carrying the team skidded off a runway in Munich, Germany, while attempting to take off after fuelling. Twenty-two others were killed.

On October 1, what would have been his 75th birthday, an exhibition will be held at the church between 10am and 1pm. Football-themed activities will take place during the day as well as a birthday cake competition.

From 7.30pm there will be a night of Black Country entertainment and comedy by Billy and Lozz from Roosterspace.

Entry is by ticket only, at £7.50, which includes a traditional Black Country meal of faggots and peas.

The following day at the Laurel Road church there will be a service to celebrate Duncan Edwards' life at St Francis of Assisi at 10.30am.

Refreshments will be served afterwards and

the exhibition will be open from 1pm to 4.30pm.

Church leaders are hoping that people with a story about Duncan will get in touch with their memories for use in the display.

To get involved or for tickets for the evening entertainment, send an email to anne.woodward@lockom.co.uk.



Duncan Edwards

Thatcher raises roof at historic club



Pub general manager Susan Williams watches as the Hungarian water reed is placed on the Kingfisher's roof

A £40,000 scheme has been launched to re-thatch the roof of a Dudley country club using traditional techniques after severe weather took its toll. The roof of Kingswinford Country Club, in Wall Heath, is being painstakingly replaced after it was damaged last winter. It is the first-time the roof has been re-thatched in around 60 years.

Bosses at the country club have secured the services of Shrewsbury-based master thatcher Paul Draycott to carry out the work.

Hungarian water reed is being used to re-thatch the roof – with the work expected to take around seven weeks to complete.

Club officials say the five-figure cost is a "significant investment" but hope the distinctive building will continue to be a point of interest in the town.

General manager Susan Williams said: "Originally we intended to move away from having a thatched roof and have it totally re-tiled instead.

"We changed our minds after Dudley Council told us the roof was of historic interest and important as an example of this technique."



Master thatcher Paul Draycott working on the roof of the club

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Students in Oxford admissions

Almost 550 students from the West Midlands and Staffordshire have been accepted into the University of Oxford over the last five years, new figures show.

Numbers released by the educational institution under the Freedom of Information Act show 323 pupils from B postcodes area, which covers Sandwell and Birmingham have accepted offers between 2006 and 2010. The statistics also show that 73 youngsters living in the DY postcode, which covers Dudley and Kidderminster, got in.

A total of 67 living in the ST postcode of Stafford and Stoke-On-Trent, 41 in the WS postcode for Walsall as

well as Cannock and 44 in the WV postcode for Wolverhampton all got in.

The numbers living in each area accepted will differ depending on the number of students eligible to apply and how many are gaining top A grades in their A-levels.

Spokeswoman for Oxford University, Dr Julia Paolitto, said the university was doing all it could to encourage pupils from the region to apply.

"Oxford University strongly encourages anyone with the ability and potential to succeed to apply - and works hard with teachers, schools and students to ensure talented students across the entire country have the

information and support to make as strong an application as possible.

"Oxford has a series of very successful regional teachers conferences which aim to equip teachers with the best possible advice for their students on applying to Oxford, and which work at breaking down misconceptions that might deter students from applying."

College chiefs in the region also say they have a number of resources on hand to encourage students wanting to go to university.

Robert Chapman, of Dudley College, said: "The need to obtain useful advice and guidance is much in demand by our students."

Report on domestic abuse rates

More than 3,500 reports of domestic violence have been logged in Dudley in the space of a year.

New figures show officers in the borough recorded 3,665 incidents during 2010/2011. Numbers are down by 699 or 16 per cent on the previous year.

The information has been released through a Dudley Council report outlining recent developments in domestic abuse policy and service provision in the borough. The report also reveals there are plans for a domestic violence refuge to be opened in the borough next year, with more than £4million of investment.

The report states that in 2009/2010, 86 per cent of victims were female and 14 per cent were male, and says everyone should play a part in spotting the signs of domestic abuse.

It said: "Professionals in all agencies, whether their prime focus is adults or children, are in a position to identify or receive a disclosure of domestic abuse. They should ask direct questions and be alert to the signs."

A rail treat for school pupils

Staff, pupils and cleaners at a Smethwick school headed for a grand day out on their own chartered train to the Severn Valley Railway visitor and education centre.

More than 460 people from Victoria Park Primary School boarded their own exclusive train at Kidderminster station.

The train took them to Highley station where they spent several hours at the visitor and education centre.

They then got back on the train to take them back to Kidderminster ready for the return coach journey to school.

The trip was free and was funded by the Ballot Street school which will be using the day out to the visitor centre as the hook to help it with all their school work during half-term, including lessons in maths, English, history, geography, science and art.

Headteacher Andrew Morrish said: "We wanted to organise an event that the children would never forget."

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Driver Terry Fitzsimmons with Victoria Park Primary pupils David Szczec and Paige Marie Richardson



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Second phase on HQ is now taking shape

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Wyre Forest District Council's new £10 million headquarters is starting to take shape as the project enters its second phase.

Building work started on the site at Finepoint Business Park, in Stourport Road, Kidderminster, in June and is expected to take around a year to complete.

Workers from Thomas Vale Construction have now started a key stage of the development, putting up the metal frame. Work on the frame started just over a week ago and is expected to take another two weeks to complete.

Experts from the construction firm said around 300 tons of steel would be used to create the frame.

Pre-cast concrete planks are also being installed on the first floor and the ground floor is being prepared ready for concrete to be laid down.

This will be the next part of the project once the steel frame is complete.

Opened

Wyre Forest District Council expect to have the new building opened by next summer.

Around 200 council staff will be moved to the new headquarters from other council-owned or operated offices around the district.

Older buildings owned by the authority are expected to be sold off to raise the cash for the new development.

The lease will not be renewed on offices currently rented by the authority.

Plans to create the new council base have proved controversial, with some councillors concerned the cash could have been spent in other areas.

But the authority says having services under one roof will help to save cash.

The building will include offices for staff, along with a new council chamber, public meeting rooms and a civic room.

Council leader Councillor John Campion said: "The building is starting to take shape now. Work has started on the metal frame so everything is progressing well."

"This is an important stage in the construction project and everything is on schedule at the moment."



Thomas Vale project manager Mick Lynn at the site of the new headquarters of Wyre Forest District Council

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Faye's time to shine as the star of being blonde



OMG! It's Elle Woods, as played by rising stage star Faye Woodcock in the touring production of the hit musical Legally Blonde

BRUNETTE Faye Woodcock is going *Legally Blonde* to star as Elle Woods in the blockbuster musical which comes to Birmingham next month.

The 24-year-old from Manchester will be wearing a wig to play the not-so-dumb blonde who proves she's no airhead in the hit West End and Broadway show. It has taken to the road for performances at the Regent Theatre in the Potteries until October 1 and at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from October 4 to 12.

The character of Elle Woods is dismissed as a bimbo but shows hidden depths when her boyfriend, Warner, dumps her for someone serious. She puts down the credit card, hits the books, and heads for Harvard Law School accompanied by her loveable Chihuahua, Bruiser, to prove she's no fool and try to win back Warner, in the touring show played by Neil Toon. The show also features former Brookside actress Claire Sweeney as Paulette and stage veteran Dave Willetts as Professor Callahan.

Faye said she could identify with Elle. "I am a girly girl and I appreciate Elle's honesty as I wear my heart on my sleeve, just like Elle," she said. "But I am a brunette. The moment I put on that blonde wig I am transformed."

Faye is the first brunette to win the role, stepping into the high heels previously occupied by Reece Witherspoon in the original movie that the show is based upon, and by Sheridan Smith and currently Carley Stenson in the London production.

Grease

The leading role is another top job for the girl from Flixton who won a role in the West End production of *Grease* before she even graduated from the Guildford School of Acting.

She played Frenchie in the rock 'n' roll musical and got her first leading lady experience by taking over in the star role of Sandy at the Piccadilly Theatre.

She had nine auditions before finally securing the role of Elle in the production which is touring nationwide.

"It was a dream come true to get this role and I know no dream is too big now," said the ambitious young actress.

"I went to see the show several times to do my homework but I wasn't daunted. I found the prospect of being Elle very exciting."

"Many will have seen Sheridan Smith's performance in the original West End show, or Carley Stenson or Reece Witherspoon, but I want to put my own stamp on this role," said Faye, who has now played Elle at more than 60 performances.

"I don't have a TV profile so I have to work harder to get the audiences on my side and to make them fall in love with the character of Elle."

She has also been helped into the role by having one of her best friends from drama school, Iwan Lewis, co-starring as Elle's friend Emmett Forest.

"Our production is not a carbon copy of the West End show," added Faye.

"Our cast is younger than the London cast, our youngest is 21 and some are straight out of drama school and that gives a fresh spin and energy to the show."

Leon Burakowski

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Two pubs are closing in Britain every day, hit by tax increases, cheap supermarket promotions and lack of support for licensees.

A study by the Campaign for Real Ale found huge numbers of pubs which are "tied" to a company – so-called pubcos – are closing. But non-tied pubs have actually seen a rise. Camra said part of the problem was that tied pub licensees were prevented from buying beer on the open market, having to pay up to 45 per cent more than their competitors.

"The number of tied pubs has fallen by 3,216 since 2008 as the large pub companies have failed to support their licensees through tough times," a new report states.

"The positive news, reflected in the Good Beer Guide, is that the number of free-of-tie pubs actually increased in number by 425 over the same period."

Scores of pubs in Staffordshire and the West Midlands have called last orders in the last year.

Struggling Staffordshire-based Punch Taverns said earlier this year it was offloading almost 3,000 sites to help tackle debts of more than £3 million.

Dispute

Last month Marston's was forced to back down in a dispute over rising rates at The Polly Inn, a thriving pub near Bridgnorth.

The pub had been due to close at the end of August but bosses reviewed charges and it was saved at the 11th hour.

Roger Protz, of the Good Beer Guide, said: "While many tied publicans struggle in the face of high rents and excessive beer prices, free-of-tie owners are faring better with the ability to offer greater beer choice, lower prices and a better pub environment." Camra called on the Government to introduce free market reforms to help save the nation's pubs.

Painter, 38, hit pub landlord with bar stool

A painter and decorator punched a Stourbridge pub landlord before smashing him twice around the back of the head with a bar stool. Regular Mark Silk attacked Scott Bytheway in a row over his girlfriend.

Silk believed Mr Bytheway was trying it on with his girlfriend, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. He was sentenced to nine months in prison, suspended for two years, last week. The 38-year-old was also ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work and pay court costs of £500.

The court heard the attack followed a previous bust-up at the Old Dial pub after Mr Bytheway offered Silk's girlfriend a job there.

On that occasion Silk, a regular at the pub in Audnam for five years, grabbed Mr Bytheway by the collar and pushed him against a wall shouting: "If you want her – have her".

Misunderstanding

Then on April 30, when Mr Bytheway tried to tell Silk there had been a misunderstanding and that he was not interested in his girlfriend, the defendant struck him before hitting him with the bar stool.

The victim suffered a bruised eye and a cut on the back of his head that needed five stitches. Silk, of Ashwood Avenue, Wordsley, pleaded guilty to causing actual bodily harm.

Mr Gurdeep Garcher, defending, told the court Silk was a "decent man" who regretted his actions.

He said Silk had misread the situation and lashed out because he was worried Mr Bytheway was going to hit him. He also said his client was now paying for anger management sessions.

"The red mist descended and he lost himself for a few short moments," he said.

Judge Helen Hughes said: "Had you simply punched Mr Bytheway that would have been bad enough but then to pick up a chair and hit him on the head – that takes the offence into another category."

Horses solution to be extended

A trial which gave police the power to round up stray horses from the streets of a Black Country borough blighted by the roaming animals looks set to be extended for a further six months. Around 45 horses have been collected in the Dudley borough since April.

Dudley Council is paying the police an undisclosed sum to seize strays which are then taken outside the Black Country to be rehomed.

Council bosses said the trial had been successful and it is in discussions to continue the service until the end of the financial year.

A special action group has also been set up to consider a long-term solution.

An agreement between Dudley Council and police over how to tackle the issue was drawn up in April after council officers uncovered a law dating back to the mid-1800s clarifying responsibility.

Hundreds of reports of animals roaming the streets in Pensnett, Brockmoor, Kingswinford and Coleley have been logged with Dudley Council this year.

Opera star Lesley hits the right note



Lesley Garrett receives applause on stage at the Dudley Concert Hall with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir

Opera and TV star Lesley Garrett praised Dudley Concert Hall as a "treasure of the UK" before performing a sell-out concert at the venue in front of more than 1,000 fans.

The star was given a thunderous round of applause as she took to the stage after being invited to perform with the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir.

And her appearance at the show brought back fond memories for the popular soprano of when she first performed at the venue in 1996 with the English Symphony Orchestra.

Speaking before the concert she said it was great to be back in the town after so long.

"The hall is a really beautiful building and I personally think it is one of the treasures in the entire UK for performance," she said.

Pleasure

"The people of Dudley are always very welcoming and love music so this is a real pleasure. It has been a very long time since I performed here last and it is good to be back."

"It is the first time I've performed with the Gentlemen Songsters, so I am really making my debut with them. They are an exceptional group. The songsters have taken the time to learn some new songs especially to sing with me and that is something I really appreciate."

The show was in support of the Parkinson's Disease Society, Stourbridge's Glasshouse College, the RNLI and Bliss.

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Whether you are looking for the latest innovations from specialist brands, wanting to try out a new mountain bike or see highly skilled BMX riders perform, the Cycle Show offers an amazing day out for everyone.

Not only will you get to see the latest across all genres of cycling, but this year's show, which takes place at the NEC Birmingham from September 30 to October 2, will also offer you the chance to try out the latest bikes for 2012 on two brand new outdoor demo tracks.

Unique

And the organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

With more outside space than ever before this year, Cycle Show organisers have joined forces with Birmingham's NEC to build and jointly fund a 1km outdoor mountain bike demo track. A first for the Cycle Show, it will offer a unique opportunity to test out the latest 2012 mountain bike ranges on a permanent track. The track will be staying for good, giving bike fanatics the opportunity to ride it regularly.

Cycle Show 2011 will also see the introduction of a 600m road demo track, perfect for commuters and road bikers wanting to test out the latest bikes.

For tickets go to www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 338 8000 to get tickets now. Advance adult tickets cost £12.50 (£15.50 on door), £10.50 for concessions, £6.50 for children and entry is free to under 5s. Special offers are available for advance group bookings. Go to www.cycleshow.co.uk



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Heritage shows at open day



Stourbridge Pantomime Company and Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society

Families who went to find out more about Dudley borough's heritage also enjoyed some amateur dramatics. As part of a national heritage open day visitors got the chance to look behind the scenes at Stourbridge Town Hall. Residents who went along to the event got the chance to view

historical films and archive material from across the Black Country. Performances also took place. Among those performing were Stourbridge Pantomime Company, Stourbridge Theatre Company, Side by Side Theatre Company and Stourbridge Amateur Operatic Society.

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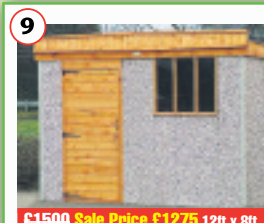
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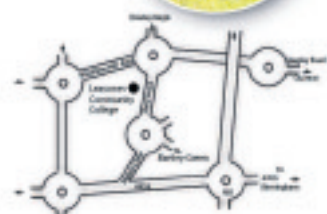
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Leasowes - Welcoming students from South Birmingham, Sandwell and Dudley



Glenn's hitting the right notes on acoustic set



Robin 2 date for Glenn Tilbrook (pic by Danny Clifford)

ONE of the UK's favourite singer/songwriters, Glenn Tilbrook, is coming to Bilston's Robin 2 venue as part of his acoustic tour of the country. The Londoner's career began with new wave band Squeeze in the 1970s, which also featured Jools Holland on keyboards. His work with the band and solo performances has spanned 30 years, spawning top 10 hits all around the world such as Cool For Cats, Tempted and Up The Junction.

With his two solo albums, The Incomplete Glenn Tilbrook and Transatlantic Ping-Pong, he proved he's lost none of the keen observation of real life that became Squeeze's trademark.

For 2009's album Pandemonium Ensues, he injected some fresh faces by recruiting new band The Fluffers and some prestigious guests in the shape of movie star couple Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis.

The Acoustic Tour 2011 will be different from anything that Glenn has previously done before.

While the first half will simply be Glenn on his own, the second half will see him joined by two musicians, Glenn Hanson (who drummed with both Squeeze and The Fluffers) and Chris McNally, featuring percussion, acoustic guitars, ukeleles, Indian harmonium, bass and iPads. As well as performing songs from his back catalogue, Glenn will be showcasing new unreleased solo material and music from The Co-Operative, Glenn's collaboration with rhythm and blues band Nine Below Zero.

Call the box office on 01902 401211 or visit the www.therobin.co.uk website.

Return journey to the fields of battle

FRESH from its West End run at the Duke of York's Theatre, the award-winning RC Sheriff's First World War drama *Journey's End* will be staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next month.

This acclaimed and poignantly understated evocation of war was nominated for an Olivier and won both

Tony and Drama Desk awards. It is directed by David Grindley and is staged at the Grand from October 4 to 8. It is set in the British trenches at St Quentin in 1918 in the days leading up to the last great German Offensive of the war, a day that saw the deaths of 38,000 men.

Written in the 1920s and

based on the author's own experience of life in the trenches, it is about courage in the face of tragedy but does not flinch from horrors of war and celebrating the real men who fought it.

It tells the story of a company of officers preparing for a daring raid across No Man's Land to gather intelli-

gence. Neither pacifist or patriotic, the play contrasts the enthusiastic teenaged new arrival Second Lieutenant Raleigh with his former school friend Captain Stanhope, left world-weary by three years of war.

Contact the box office on 01902 429212 or go to www.grandtheatre.co.uk



Simon Dutton (left) and Graham Butler in the play

Magical moments around the region's main theatres

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet brings its fairytale *Beauty and the Beast* to the city's Hippodrome Theatre from Wednesday to Sunday, September 28 to October 2. David Bintley's production is a blend of rich choreography with sumptuous sets and costumes, plus a touch of magic.

The company follows with *Autumn Glory* (October 6-8), three, one act ballets including Ninette de Valois's chess-themed *Checkmate*, Frederick Ashton's *Symphonic Variations* and the comic *Pineapple Poll*, danced to a medley of Gilbert and Sullivan favourites.

Meanwhile, it is the last chance to catch Bill Kenwright's touring production of *Evita* at the Hippodrome until Saturday.

Bill Geraghty plays two rock 'n' roll legends - Buddy Holly and Jerry Lee Lewis - in *Buddy Vs The Killer* at Wolverhampton Grand tonight (Thursday) to Saturday.

Birmingham Rep has linked productions of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Tom Stoppard's Wilde homage *Travesties* at The Old Rep on Station Street to October 22. Check with the box office on 0121 236 4455 to find out what play on which night.



Buddy Vs The Killer is playing at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tonight

Birmingham Stage Company, a group well-known for its plays for children, brings the first major production of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* to the New Alex in Birmingham until Saturday.

Meanwhile, *Marty Wilde* is in concert at the Alex on Monday, and 3D takes a surprising new direction when those Aussie exhibitionists bring *Puppetry of the Penis 3D* to the Alex on Tuesday for one night.

Roy 'Chubby' Brown will no doubt have a comment on that when he brings his show to the venue the following night.

Trevor Little plays Sir Alec Guinness reflecting on his career in *Two Halves of*

Guinness at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday). Meanwhile, Mark Whiteley looks back on 17 years as a television bit part actor in the light-hearted *When Will I Be Famous?* At the Arena tomorrow (Friday), Guy Masterson explores the character of *Shylock* from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* at the Arena on Wednesday, September 28.

All and Sundry presents Harold Brighouse's classic comedy about an ambitious daughter and her tyrannical father, *Hobson's Choice*, to Birmingham's Crescent Theatre nightly to Saturday, when there is also a matinee.

Will's back on the road with Echoes tour

TEN years on from his first Pop Idol audition, Will Young is back at the forefront of the UK pop scene with his latest album, the soulful *Echoes*, and a 23-date UK tour, including a concert at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday, November 20.

Echoes - featuring the hit single *Jealousy* - is his follow-up to the platinum-selling *Hits* collection and is his fifth studio album. He has written all but one song on *Echoes* which is produced by Richard X.

Will has been dividing his time between music and acting, with a starring role in Sky TV supernatural thriller *Bedlam* and a guest appearance in C4's teen drama *Skins*. He also found time to train and then run in this year's London Marathon in aid of the Catch 22 charity.



UK tour for Will Young

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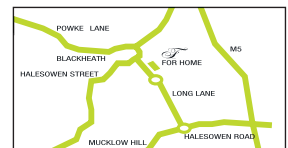
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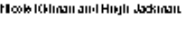
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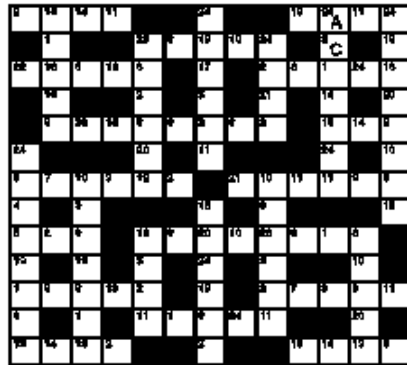
Please contact
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Brain Gym

No. 133

Codeword

Codeword is the crossword puzzle with no clues. The number in each square corresponds to a letter. You need to crack the code using the three letters provided, in order to work out the words in the grid. Fill in these known letters first, then use your skill and judgment to work out the remainder. Cross off the letters on the alphabet below the grid as you go.



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

- Across**
- Island without a bar (4)
 - It may form a strong attachment to a craft (8)
 - Offhand and breezy (4)
 - Finish because of a handloop (8)
 - He may set out with a split form mountain rescue work (5,7)
 - The usual thing a ship receives from people (6)
 - He may scratch a thing (8)
 - Possibly Reg thinks of a red card (4,2,6)
 - A month with a boost (8)
 - A story teller (4)
 - Old eaten like this makes quite a story (8)
 - Monitor that helps us make progress (4)

Down

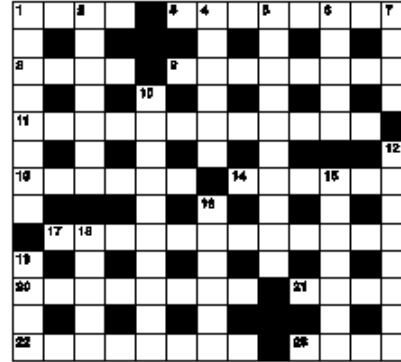
- How to do but mess? You'll find the short answer in the leaflet (8)
- They carry heavy burdens in many ways (7)
- Oh! don't deny it's a selfish character (6)
- The present combined with the past but very often (5,3,4)
- Book I search on the outside (9)
- Chuckles from the whole stall (4)
- A personal grip, useful in defence (10)
- What you'll do if you can (8)
- It may show she's married, but it's fishy (7)
- A bit of a sea (6)
- Published the final result (9)
- Nelson held her in high esteem may be (4)

Quick Clues:

- Across**
- Cocle (4)
 - Ugork (8)
 - Occy (4)
 - Frank (8)
 - Overed to one purpose (5,6)
 - Occorous (6)
 - Oress (6)
 - Later reflection (1,2)
 - Moritanian sea (8)
 - Nothing (4)
 - Polion (8)
 - Empties (4)

Down

- Charm (8)
- Seaman (7)
- Begin again (6)
- Inactivity (10)
- Angry (5)
- Moriment (4)
- Unreduced (10)
- Overlives (8)
- Way in (7)
- Rigid (6)
- Promer (5)
- Tardy (4)

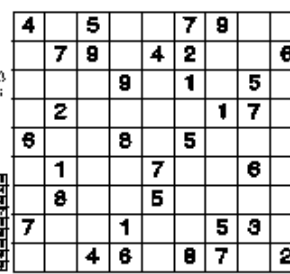


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CROSSWORDS - Across: 1. Telling phone, 17. Phobias, 19. Tunes, 11. Gains, 12. Ex-hits, 13. Lovers, 15. Bells, 18. Tinkles, 20. Nines, 22. Pines, 23. Gains, 24. Ventrals. Down: 2. Apples, 3. In ones, 4. Gains, 5. Lovers, 6. Gains, 7. Spindles, 8. Progresses, 14. Pines, 16. Gains, 17. Phobias, 19. Tunes, 21. Pines.
WORDSEARCHES - 1. Mandy, 2. Mandy, 3. Mandy, 4. Mandy, 5. Mandy, 6. Mandy, 7. Mandy, 8. Mandy, 9. Mandy, 10. Mandy, 11. Mandy, 12. Mandy, 13. Mandy, 14. Mandy, 15. Mandy, 16. Mandy, 17. Mandy, 18. Mandy, 19. Mandy, 20. Mandy, 21. Mandy, 22. Mandy, 23. Mandy, 24. Mandy, 25. Mandy, 26. Mandy.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CROSSWORDS - Across: 1. Telling phone, 17. Phobias, 19. Tunes, 11. Gains, 12. Ex-hits, 13. Lovers, 15. Bells, 18. Tinkles, 20. Nines, 22. Pines, 23. Gains, 24. Ventrals. Down: 2. Apples, 3. In ones, 4. Gains, 5. Lovers, 6. Gains, 7. Spindles, 8. Progresses, 14. Pines, 16. Gains, 17. Phobias, 19. Tunes, 21. Pines.
WORDSEARCHES - 1. Mandy, 2. Mandy, 3. Mandy, 4. Mandy, 5. Mandy, 6. Mandy, 7. Mandy, 8. Mandy, 9. Mandy, 10. Mandy, 11. Mandy, 12. Mandy, 13. Mandy, 14. Mandy, 15. Mandy, 16. Mandy, 17. Mandy, 18. Mandy, 19. Mandy, 20. Mandy, 21. Mandy, 22. Mandy, 23. Mandy, 24. Mandy, 25. Mandy, 26. Mandy.



Circlegram

Replace the question marks with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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It's hoodies versus aliens

Attack The Block (15)

A GANG of hoodies fight back when their south London council estate comes under attack from alien invaders in comedian Joe Cornish's directorial debut. It's an uneven blend of urban drama, dark comedy and sci-fi horror but its genre-bending 88 minutes are so fast-paced that it is easy to overlook the flaws.

A gang of teenaged bullies mug a nurse (Jodie Whittaker, recently seen in Marchlands) and as gang leader Moses menaces her something crashes into a nearby car. That something is a small alien with big teeth. It is no match for Moses, who brutally beats the creature to death and then hauls it around the estate like a trophy. However, a horde of big hairy aliens with glow-in-the-dark teeth come calling, apparently eager for revenge.

Victim and muggers then have to team up to fend off the monsters and the almost equally dangerous gangster Hi-Hatz, who reckons Moses (a powerful performance from John Boyega that seems to belong in a serious drama) is trying to take over as crime lord. Nick Frost has a comic cameo as a drug dealer.

I reckon many viewers will find it hard to sympathise with the hoodies, and may even root for the aliens, after that realistic mugging scene. **LB**

DVD round-up

Source Code (12)

THIS high concept sci-fi thriller from director Duncan Jones – David Bowie's son – stars Jake Gyllenhaal as a soldier on a mission to find a bomber who has blown up a train and plans to set off a 'dirty bomb' in Chicago.

The twist is that the soldier is being implanted into the mind of a dead passenger via a computer 'source code' that allows military boffins to access the last eight minutes of the deceased's memory... over and over again.

Thus Gyllenhaal's Colter Stevens gets eight-minute increments to locate the bomb and bomber before all ends with a fiery explosion. As one member of cast points out in the DVD extras, it's Groundhog Day meets Speed.

Despite his mission Captain Stevens still finds time to engage in a fledgling romance with fellow passenger Christina (Michelle Monaghan) which leads to a determination to rescue her and the other passengers, despite the project boss at HQ pointing out that 'source code' is not time travel.

However, in the 'real world' time is running out to locate the bomb, as the confused



and suspicious Colter is reminded by his link to the outside world, Goodwin (ice cool Vera Farmiga).

This becomes a satisfyingly cerebral thriller. Alongside plenty of action and big bangs there are the puzzles of both a whodunnit and the mystery of Colter's 'real world' location. The big question is why Colter – whose last memory is of a helicopter mission in Afghanistan – has been chosen for the mission.

Far-fetched as it is, the story is driven by engaging leading man Gyllenhaal's conviction and director Jones' visual flair.

Available on DVD and from iTunes.

The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc-Sec (12)

IMAGINE Amelie crossed with Lara Croft, add big dollops of The Mummy, Indiana Jones and even a touch of Inspector Clouseau, and you get a handle on this lighthearted French fantasy romp based on a popular Gallic comic.

The subtitles may be a barrier for some but fans of funny and action-packed special effects stuffed movies shouldn't overlook this tall tale about a tomb-raiding 1912 Parisian journalist. She aims to revive an ancient Egyptian doctor in order to save her sister, after an unfor-

tunate accident involving a hatpin (ouch).

Played for laughs by eccentric director Luc Besson (he also made Leon, The Fifth Element and the Arthur kids movies), it stars the charismatic Louise Bourgois as the unflappable heroine Blanc-Sec ("dry white, like the wine") who thinks nothing of sharing a coffin with an ancient pharaoh to escape an exploding tomb or riding to the rescue on a recently hatched pterodactyl.

It is a ludicrous ripping yarn which has so many excellent set pieces, delivered with a dry wit – the pharaoh has a nice line at the Louvre about Paris needing a Pyramid – and stylish panache, that it is highly entertaining.

Available on DVD, Blu-Ray and via iTunes. **LB**



Rudely interrupted from growing radishes by alien invaders, Delta Squad are back in action in Gears of War 3

Get into Gears

Gears of War 3

(Epic/Microsoft, 18)

The Gears franchise stays successful but sticking to what it does best, allowing beefcake space marines to kick alien butt with an array of ridiculously oversized weapons. You get plenty of bang for your buck with Gears.

This third instalment sees Fenix and the rest of the COG soldiers cooling their heels on a rusty old ocean barge, having apparently lost the war against the alien Locusts and Lambert. But the sudden return of the dodgy Chairman Prescott, with the alien hordes in hot pursuit, sends Delta Squad on a mission to rescue Fenix's scientist father, thought dead but who may have found a way to defeat the aliens.

The old stalwarts are back, including Baird and Dom, the latter most disgruntled that he is torn away from tending to his radishes, which seems to be the squad's main food source.

Gears of War 3 looks great, the dialogue is clichéd and peppered with expletives but crucially it delivers non-

stop action. Both hardcore fans and casual gamers are catered for, with lots of different modes for multi-player match-ups. Epic have dedicated servers for the expected surge of Gears online action. Rookies can choose the casual setting to breeze through the day-long campaign.

Epic's design director Cliff Bleszinski has always said that "Gears isn't Shakespeare". In fact, you can get the makers' mindset from the fact that the Lambert are designed to explode with a sickly yellow splat when killed. Gears 3 is a blast, in fact, it's lots of blasts.

Available for Xbox 360 only.

Dead Island (Deep Silver, 18)

A luxury hotel vacation on a tropical island becomes the holiday from hell in this satisfying action-horror game.

After a slow start when you would do well to pick up as many useful objects as possible, the zombie onslaught comes thick and fast... very fast.

Dead Island will become a must for zombie slaying survivalists because of the ability to improvise and modify weaponry to use against the ravenous ghoulies. Dead good.

It is available for Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC.

Driver San Francisco (Ubisoft, 12)

Bullitt meets Life On Mars in this twist on driving games.

You play an undercover cop determined to capture an escaping master criminal on the streets of San Francisco. But when the crook engineers a crash that leaves you in a coma, the chase continues in your head in an imaginary Frisco where street signs give you helpful hints about your true condition, like WAKE UP! But it does let you shift into the bodies of other drivers to gain access to their wheels.

The mystical stuff isn't necessary because most driving fans will be satisfied to be at the wheel of a powerful sports car (more than 100 are available) and have an open-world San Francisco at their disposal. Those hills were surely made to test suspension. DSF is available for Xbox 360, PS3, Wii and PC.

All these titles were reviewed on Xbox 360.

Leon Burakowski

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The top property guide for Stourbridge, Halesowen, Dudley and Kidderminster

Detached home that has great features

This property known as The Squirrels, in Penn, is a superb executive home of generous proportions, built in the late 1970s by David Payne Homes.

Available for £415,000, it is of an attractive and individual design, offering an excellent standard of superbly spacious and highly versatile living accommodation, which is ideal as a family home.

The particularly well-proportioned and maintained living space, which benefits from gas fired radiator heating and double glazed windows, has a wealth of fine features.

This includes spacious and inviting reception hall, guest WC, 23ft 11in through lounge with feature 'into wall' fireplace, separate dining room with conservatory area and impressive double glazed conservatory offering inter-connecting access to both living rooms.

Spacious

There is a comprehensively fitted breakfast kitchen, fitted utility room, spacious part galleried landing, fitted master bedroom with en suite shower room, three further fitted bedrooms and a well appointed house bathroom, all combining together to create a sophisticated yet practical living environment.

Situated within a most private backwater location, convenient for an excellent range local amenities & good schooling, the property stands well away from the Penn Road, accessed over a private lane servicing four homes and is approached via a substantial 100ft long driveway providing useful off road parking for a number of vehicles and access to the double width garage.

A particular feature to this most desirable home is the delightfully mature and well-stocked gardens, encompassing the front and back elevations creating a most pleasing outlook and back drop.

For further details, or to arrange a viewing, contact Stevenston Land and Estate Agent on 01902 753131.



A large through lounge is among the many fabulous features of The Squirrels, Penn, priced £415,000



This property was built by David Payne Homes in the 1970s



A good-sized rear garden is looked onto by a large conservatory

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FIRTH PARK CRESCENT, HALESOWEN



Spacious 3 double bedroomed home
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15ft 9 lounge with fitted flame effect gas fire
Bathroom, WC & 3 double bedrooms
Integral garage & block paved driveway
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
£154,950 Ref: D1121

CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY



25ft Lounge Diner with fitted electric fireplace.
Refitted kitchen with built in oven & hob
Refitted bathroom & 3 bedrooms.
No upward chain.
Front and rear gardens. Potential for front driveway.
Majority UPVC DG & GCH.
£139,750 Ref: D1115

BRAMCOTE ROAD, QUINTON



Semi det home with 3 good sized bedrooms
14ft lounge to front with fireplace
20ft dining kitchen, rear veranda & ds WC
3 bedrooms & family bathroom on first floor
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
No upward chain - vacant possession
£109,950 Ref: D1110

HAWTHORN CROFT, OLDBURY



Spacious extended 4 bed semi-det home
15ft 7 x 13ft 10 kitchen diner, DMC
Lounge, sitting rm & study/playroom
4 bedrooms & bathroom
Off road parking, garden & garage
GCH, UPVC d/g & security system
£285,000 Ref: D1102

MEADOW ROAD, QUINTON



Link detached 3 double bedroom home.
Predominantly modernised home
14ft dining room & 12ft lounge to rear
14ft part refitted kitchen & DS WC.
Refitted luxury bathroom
New GCH & UPVC double glazing
£199,950 Ref: D1120

SCHOOL STREET, CRADLEY HEATH



Former Church Hall well positioned for local amenities.
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Second hall 28ft 4 x 25ft 9, 2 offices, kitchen & toilet facilities.
Large car parking area
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£195,000 Ref: D1117

GRAYSWOOD PARK ROAD, QUINTON



3 bed home in sought after tree lined road
Extended 13ft kitchen leading to integral garage
Family bathroom with bath and shower cubicle
Large rear garden with southerly aspect
Driveway and garage (small car only)
Gas central heating and majority double glazing
£169,950 Ref: D1122

EDWARD ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 3 bed semi in popular road.
Kitchen, sep utility, study & ds wc.
Dining room, separate lounge & sun room
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Delightful garden with southerly aspect.
Benefitting UPVC d/g (majority) & gas ch.
£179,950 Ref: D1114

WOODBURY ROAD, HALESOWEN



Detached 2 bed bungalow
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FELDON LANE, HALESOWEN



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ROYAL OAK ROAD, LAPAL



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UPVC double glazing & GCH
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WINDSOR ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 3 bedroom detached home
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Driveway for 2 cars to front & large garage to rear
Immaculately presented internally & externally
£198,000 Ref: D1059

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN



Extended traditional style 3 bed det home
Lounge & extended living/dining room to rear
Extended refitted kitchen & downstairs WC
Large gardens to rear (not overlooked)
Off road parking & detached garage
Majority UPVC DGs & fitted with GCH
£179,950 Ref: D1106

WOODBURY CLOSE, HURST GREEN



Detached home in pleasant cul-de-sac
Kitchen with separate breakfast room
Lounge/diner overlooking rear garden
3 bedrooms & family bathroom
GCH & majority double glazing
Integral garage & driveway
£174,950 Ref: D903

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£99,950

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Briery Road, Halesowen



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Petford Street, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £110,000 **NEW PRICE**

Three bedroom property, porch, hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing, parking and garage.

Marquis Drive, Halesowen



Offers Over £135,000 **NEW PRICE**

Three bedroom semi detached property, corner plot, entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, first floor shower room, garage, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating

Hanley Close, Halesowen



Offers Over £140,000

Modern three bedroom detached comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, first floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garage, driveway and rear garden.

Throne Crescent, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £100,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

Three bedroom mid terrace comprising extended lounge and kitchen, first floor bathroom, central heating, double glazing, rear garden with decking, garage and service road to rear. No chain.

Dale Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £200,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

Immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached, dining room, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility, garage/store, driveway, rear garden with decked patio area, double glazing and central heating

Norwood Avenue, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £75,000 **NEW**

Two bedroom semi detached property, hallway, lounge/diner, kitchen, passageway, first floor bathroom, double glazing and no upward chain.

Abberley Close, Halesowen



£170,000 **NEW**

Four/five property, cul-de-sac location, breakfast kitchen, bedroom, 5/office/playroom + shower room, first floor open plan lounge, bathroom, bedroom, three further bedrooms on second floor, double glazing and central heating

Briery Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £215,000

Three bedroom detached with potential to extend (subject to planning permission) dining room, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, garage, bathroom, driveway, established rear garden, double glazing and central heating

Pippin Avenue, Halesowen



Offers Over £65,000 **NEW PRICE**

One bedroom ground floor flat, lounge open plan to kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, double glazing, storage heaters, no upward chain, garage en-bloc and parking.

Olive Hill Road, Halesowen



£200,000

Detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, sun room, garage, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Compton Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £150,000 **NEW PRICE**

Four bedroom traditional property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs shower room, garage, first floor bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing.

Elbow Street, Cradley Heath



£150,000

Three bedroom property with en-suite to main, wc, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, garage, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating

Chatsworth Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

Three bedroom semi detached, lounge/diner, kitchen, first floor bathroom, central heating, double glazing, driveway, garage and rear garden, no upward chain.

Middle Tree Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £140,000

Three bedroom semi detached comprising lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, wc, first floor bathroom, driveway, garage, double glazing, central heating and no chain

Melbourne Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

Three bedroom, two storey property, No kitchen, wc, lounge, bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden, central heating and double glazing. No upward chain.

Mount Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £120,000

Two bedroom terrace property, No Upward Chain, two Reception rooms, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating

Highfield Road, Halesowen



£110,000

Three bedroom semi detached property having no upward chain, lounge, kitchen, first floor shower room, front and rear garden, garage, central heating and double glazing

King Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £110,000

This end terrace house has entrance lobby, downstairs wc, lounge, kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, double glazing.

Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

Harden Manor Court, Chadbury Road



Offers Over £100,000

A modern two bedroom ground floor flat accessed via intercom security entrance with accommodation comprising of lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, double glazing and a garage.

The Grange, Halesowen Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £120,000

Two bedroom first floor flat with entrance via a security intercom door comprising of open plan lounge/modern kitchen, shower room, garage, parking and double glazing.

Talbot Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £90,000

Terraced property, two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms, dressing room, rear garden and benefiting from double glazing



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Don't be sheepish when using wool

Counting sheep might be worth a try to encourage sweet dreams, but featuring wool and sheepskin is a guaranteed way to ensure a smart home.

The fashionable flock are snuggling on sheepskin rugs, snapping up furniture and accessories boasting beautifully knitted upholstery, or simply picking up their knitting needles this autumn.

Wool's durable qualities have just been celebrated for the second year running by HRH The Prince of Wales, among others, who initiated the Wool Week campaign last year.

From September 5-11, shops across the UK dedicated wool-inspired windows and major stores including John Lewis, Heal's, House of Fraser and Conran support the campaign.

"Trends we see on the catwalk don't just filter into our wardrobes, they also have a great impact on interior design," says John Bain, global design director for Brintons carpets.

"The natural springiness and resilience of wool makes it a perfect carpet choice for the family home, while providing insulation which will help reduce heat loss during winter."

Our nation's renewed passion for crafts, coupled with a desire to know the provenance of items, are also fuelling this trend for woolly wonders.

So indulge yourself in sheep chic and treat yourself to home items with a baadcode.

GET FLEECE

There's nothing like the tactile, sensual experience of snuggling up on sheepskin, which retains heat in winter but can be cool in summer.

House Couturier's Eco Wool accessories collection boasts some animal friendly, hand-made couture, using 100 per cent wool from old European sheep



Get the look – woolen throws and cushions available from Laura Ashley

breeds. The collection includes bed covers, £2,396, a delightful Racka footstool, £1,920, and cushions, £286 each.

The White Company's Luxury Sheepskin collection is also highly desirable, with its huge, squashy beanbags, £950, large rugs, £500, and cushions, £60.

But those who want to break away from the conventional could indulge in the imaginative work of designers who are seizing the chance to work with wool.

"Wool is definitely making a comeback in the design industry following a trend that rediscovers distinctive natural materials," says Gianluca Armento, brand director for Italian design company Cassina.

Designer Franco Albini has created the stunning limited edition Tre Pezzi Wool armchair, £4,000, using white Mongolian goat hair and the results are simply stunning.

WOOLLY TOUCHES

If even the thought of picking up your needles and knitting up some accessories puts you in a spin, simply plunder the high street home stores. There's a flock of knitted treasures on offer that are perfect for warming chilly rooms.

Laura Ashley's selection is particularly impressive with its fashionable hand-made feel.

Their Asha basket weave throw, £100, and knitted cushions, from £38 each, are worth splashing out on.

Marks & Spencer has beautiful sheepskin rugs, from £39.50, as well as treats for sofas, including a loose knit throw, £45, and chunky knit buttoned cushion, £25.

While Tesco is bang on style and price with a cable knit cushion, £10, from its F&F home range.

Taste of the Orient from your own plot

Checking out the price of bags of oriental greens at the various high street supermarkets is enough to make most gardeners want to grow their own.

You can pay pounds for bags of mixed greens which add flavour to tangy salads and quick stir-fries, but all too often you don't use the whole bag in one sitting, so the rest is left in the fridge until it turns into an inedible soggy mass.

It would be so much easier to pick the leaves you need straight from your garden, so there's less waste and guaranteed freshness.

With this in mind, Which? Gardening, the Consumers' Association magazine, tested 14 types of oriental veg to see how well they can grow either in your vegetable patch or in containers.

Researchers grew eight leafy vegetables in 30cm containers filled with peat-free compost. One pot of each was treated as a cut-and-come-again crop, while the second pot was left to produce larger plants. All were sown three times – in late March, late May and late July. Slower growing veg were grown in the ground.

Cut-and-come-again crops which were trialled included mizuna, mustard greens and amaranth, while other popular veg included pak choi, Chinese cabbage and giant radishes.

Among the easiest and quickest was mizuna, which can be added to salads and stir fries and is best grown on its own as it can swamp other salad plants.

As a baby leaf it produced 300g per pot from a March sowing from the first cut and 185g from the second cut. Summer sowings proved less prolific and the young plants were damaged by flea beetles.

The tests found pak choi, which is delicious lightly steamed and served with garlic and oyster sauce, is easy to grow from seed although it's slower than other oriental greens.

The best results were seen from the early sowing but later batches were also successful so it's worth planting



Pak choi is delicious when lightly steamed and served with garlic and soy

throughout the summer, although not just after midsummer when it will bolt.

Sow

Chinese cabbage is best allowed to grow into a mature plant so it was grown in the ground. It was sown into small pots in mid-June and planted out in July – don't sow any earlier or it will bolt – and forms a dense heart like an iceberg lettuce. You'll need to cover it in fine netting to keep caterpillars at bay and it may be susceptible to mildew and mealy aphid, although the outer leaves can be thrown away. In the tests, when harvested, each head weighed just over 100g.

Mustard greens, which have a strong, peppery flavour, are also best used as a cut-and-come-again crop to perk up salads. The most successful sowing in the trial was the earliest sowing of the large-leaved 'Red Giant', as later sowings suffered from flea beetle damage. Other types worth trying are 'Golden Streaks' and 'Green Frills'.

Amaranth, which if allowed to grow

larger can be cooked like spinach, did better from later sowings, producing plants up to 25cm tall which didn't attract flea beetles and was less prone to bolting. It can also be used as a cut-and-come-again crop to add to baby leaf salads.

Among the most impressive-looking vegetables were mooli and beauty heart radishes.

Mooli was sown in mid-July, thinned to 30cm apart and by late August they had produced massive white roots weighing up to 750g each and are ideally used grated in salads.

Beauty heart produced large round roots with brightly coloured centres, sown similarly to mooli.

Researchers found that the quality was variable and concluded that this type of radish needs a long, warm summer.

Most of the veg tested are members of the cabbage family, suffering from the same pests, so you have to be vigilant against slugs and snails, flea beetles, cabbage white caterpillars and mealy aphids.

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HALESOWEN, DOWNING STREET

An immaculately presented and recently modernised semi-detached home, centrally located in Halesowen town centre, comprising of: Three Good Sized Bedrooms with Hardwood Floors, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Spacious Lounge and Separate Dining Room, Family Bathroom with Shower, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed, Driveway Parking, Large Rear Garden, Part Furnished, A MUST SEE PROPERTY

£725 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUMMERFIELDS AVENUE

Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Large Bedrooms, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage

£650 PCM



BEARWOOD, WIGORN ROAD

Ideally located for commuting to Birmingham, and close to Warley Woods, is this mid-terrace house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms and a Study, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Outside WC, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, On Road, Parking, Unfurnished

£650 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, CLEINT HILL DRIVE

A nicely presented modern link detached 3 bedroom house, briefly comprising of: Living room, dining room, bathroom with shower, double glazing and central heating, two parking spaces and rear garden. Unfurnished.

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, HUNTLANDS ROAD

Located on the Huntlands Estate, is this three story terraced property, close to Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Warm Air Heating, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

£625 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALESOWEN ROAD

An unfurnished mid terrace house modernised throughout briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Three Good Sized Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Courtyard Style Garden, Parking to the rear of the property and on road

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY ROAD

Unfurnished Semi Detached House briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking

£525 pcm



HALESOWEN, BRETT YOUNG CLOSE

An impressive 2nd floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen town centre. Briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen and Separate Dining Area, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Allocating Parking

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE

Located just off Cox Sheds Lane, is the very large, fully refurbished first floor flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, SOUTHGATE

★ Well presented unfurnished semi-detached house ★ Close to local amenities ★ Three bedrooms ★ Fitted kitchen ★ Driveway parking, ★ Gardens

£495 pcm



ROWLEY REGIS, HIGHFIELD ROAD

★ Part furnished semi-detached house ★ Two reception rooms ★ Three bedrooms ★ Fitted kitchen ★ Double garage to rear, gardens

£495 pcm



CRADLEY HEATH, SUTHERLAND ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen with White Goods, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAMMERSLEY CLOSE

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, is this unfurnished and terraced house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Rear Garden

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY ROAD

An immaculately presented ground floor one bedroom flat, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower over Bath, Allocated Parking Space, Unfurnished.

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, THORNHILL ROAD

A refurbished ground floor one bedroom flat set within a quiet location. Briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Living Room, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Separate Garage, Unfurnished.

£400 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

On this popular development, is this unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage

£380 PCM



DUDLEY, BEAN ROAD

A refurbished ground floor flat within easy reach of the town centre, briefly comprising of: Reception Hall with Minton Floor, Lounge, Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, Double Glazing, and Communal Parking

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On January 1, 2012 the Driving Standards Agency will stop publishing the live multiple choice questions used in Theory Tests, making revision and understanding of the theory elements and driving principles even more important for achieving a pass in each of the driving tests.

Among the many revision and practice features in Driving Test Success products, the new 2012 editions include the complete bank of new official Revision Questions from the Driving Standards Agency.

The Driving Test Success Product Range includes:

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- Theory Test - Driving Test Success (iOS App, £1.99)
- Hazard Perception - Driving Test Success (iOS App, £1.99)

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The pass rate for the driving theory test is at its lowest in five years.

The DSA believes that this is because learners aren't preparing properly.

Around 1.5 million car theory tests were attempted in 2009/10 with almost four in 10 tests (36 per cent) resulting in a fail, the lowest pass rate on record since 2004/05.

With over 1,200 questions in the current official DSA revision bank, candidates must be prepared to put in a considerable amount of effort if they are to walk out of the test centre with a pass certificate.

It's vital that candidates study the latest edition of the Highway Code, learn and understand the principles behind all of the official revision questions, and develop their hazard perception skills.

These subjects and more besides are fully covered in the new Driving Test Success products. For further information visit the website: <http://www.drivingtestsuccess.com/2012-product-range>.



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All eyes on the German stage

THERE was no shortage of new cars and technologies on display at this year's Frankfurt Motor Show.

And while "green" motoring has finally become a mainstream discussion topic, there was more to the show than just fuel economy and CO2 figures.

World debuts are the staple diet of shows such as Frankfurt, and one such debut with strong ties to the UK was Honda's Civic.

This latest generation family hatch will be built in the Japanese firm's Swindon facility.

Honda has had a presence in the UK for some time and the Civic is synonymous with the West Country plant.

Generation

During the car's four-year development cycle, Honda engineers concentrated on improving the car's ride and handling, boosting interior cabin quality and overall ambience and, crucially, focusing on lowering fuel consumption and emissions – the 2.2-litre diesel is now rated at 110g/km CO2 for example.

Petrol fans are well served with 1.4 and 1.8-litre units, while all engines gain a stop-start feature to further help the car's economy drive.

Aside from the Civic, another hotly anticipated new model is Porsche's latest generation 911.

It would be easy to say that it's the same again from the German firm. Certainly, it looks very familiar.

However, over the years Porsche has worked hard to deliver a consistent and familiar look while constantly evolving the car's mechanicals.

And that approach is true for today as it was when the car was first launched.

Sister

With the ability to achieve the impossible – lower consumption and emissions yet more power – Porsche's new 911 is without doubt a considerable step forward for driving enthusiasts.

Slightly increased dimensions, a seven-speed manual gearbox to match the car's seven-speed PDK auto, a Panamera-inspired cabin and the promise of harder core, faster models in the years to come are the main highlights of the model. Staying on a performance theme, the appearance of Toyota's long-awaited new affordable sports car, the FT86, should silence all those impatient critics.

It's fair to say it's been a long time coming but, like the LFA from sister company Lexus, it should be worth the wait.

And in partnership with Toyota, Subaru will also be releasing a car from the same platform complete with its trademark Boxer engine and, unusually, rear not all-wheel drive.

If you think waiting just a few years for a sporty new Toyota is frustrating, you're going to need the patience of a saint if you plan on hanging around for the next generation Land Rover Defender.



Land Rover Defender concept vehicles at the Frankfurt Motor Show



Jaguar's C-X16 concept is a potential Porsche rival

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
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
Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).


KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374773 


JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTW understanding tall, caring man for daytime meals. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375141 


DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTW similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370023 

HAYLEY 26yr old curvy brunette, single mum of one, outgoing but very lonely, WLTW trustworthy guy who can help me have some fun again. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374139 

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432 


HAVE all the good ones gone? Here I am left on the shelf looking for fun, laughter and friendship! ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372063 

27YR old beautiful female, genuine and fun to be with seeking genuinely romantic male for mutual spoiling. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373017 

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lovely, WLTW nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370111 

MICHELLE 23, gorgeous, curvaceous, brown eyes WLTW nice guy for friendship, maybe leading to more. Looks unimportant. Single dad welcome. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373015 

BLACK female, medium build, mother of two, WLTW lively gent, 34-40, N/S with GSOH for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 148702 


HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277 

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375111 


TRACY outgoing sun worshiper, OHAC, employed, looking for her Prince Charming to enjoy romantic holidays and good times together. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375709 


LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTW male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376165 


DAWN 35, attractive fit single social butterfly, WLTW similar outgoing fun guy for adult companionship. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375707 

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373013 

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for naughty friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 370017 

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317 

SLIM young looking blonde who loves everything about life looking for attractive honest guy to spend fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374141 


ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375139 


28YR old tall good looking and single, just looking for a bit of fun with spontaneous, open minded man. You won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375137 

I'M attractive, very tactile with an hour-glass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368889 


MANDY GSOH, like nights in/out, have all the good ones gone, here I am looking for fun, laughter, friendship, possible LTR with similar male. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376149 

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376115 


VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311 

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368119 

BIG is beautiful Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528 

MADELINE 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375789 

RACHEL 34, brown hair, blue eyes, slim, curvy, professional, likes cinema, walks, socialising, meals out, pubs, pool, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 262978 

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428 


YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115 


ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375779 

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491 

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619 


RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensitive, funny gent for friendship, companionship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375929 

DAWN attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLTW tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375825 


KATHY 28, tall, slim, dark, blue eyed female with many interests, OHAC, WLTW interesting male for dates, and more. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375587 


SARAH young looking curvy 40's female, fed up with everyday routines, WLTW up for some fun with younger male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375581 

ANGIE active attractive female looking to enjoy fun and weekends away with available male who is also looking for good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 375583 

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651 

WENDY dark hair/eyes, medium build, seeks male for friendship and see what happens. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361589 


ELAINE kind, romantic, loving 43, seeks genuine male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374845 

JEAN 71, fun loving Shropshire lady, seeks caring gent of similar age, GSOH, N/S for companionship/outings. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373657 

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTW countryman/batchelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Herefordshire. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 387204 


POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371127 


SLIM female, 5ft 9ins, blonde, likes weekends away, meals out, seeks handsome chap to court me, then maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369295 


FUN female, uniformed, civil servant, attractive, average build, GSOH, seeks tall, professional, N/S male with GSOH for relationship. Willenhall. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367485 

5FT 1ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, W Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743 

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373 


KIND romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368429 

OPTIMISTIC Shropshire lass, slim, gorgeous, seeks good looking gent, 40-50 with GSOH. Bridgnorth area preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362033 

RAQUEL dark hair, tattooed, slim, mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755 




CUSTOMER SUPPORT 0844 800 1188
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
WIDOWED lady 70's, likes countryside, travel, seaside, seeks nice gent to spend time with. Shropshire Area Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362993 


BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852 

LADY 70's, seeks gent of similar age for friendship, days out and holidays. Dudley area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361043 

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351 


BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235 

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319 


WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855 


SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241 


CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTW very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985 

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751 


SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587 


FEMALE 51, slim, 4ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761 

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411 


SHROPSHIRE female 40, seeks special local male to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355599 

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891 

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 325753 

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399 

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MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372407 

men seeking women

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
WELL built mixed race guy, seeking fun and laughter with attached fun with open-minded female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376513 


MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, seeks female for fun. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 372407 


PAUL young energetic 60yr old, seeks slim, attractive lady, 55-60 for fun. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376485 

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368871 

CHRIS attractive 42, seeks genuine, loving, romantic, female from the Shropshire area, size 14 downwards, petite and bubbly. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373843 

STEVE tall male, 54, seeks female, any age/status for fun. W Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376411 


TONY 47, loving, caring, honest, faithful, seeks local lady, 40-55. Smethwick area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 373835 


IAN 43, single dad, likes rugby, motorsports, reading, history, cooking, walks, cinema, music, seeks kind, honest, sincere lady, 25-48. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371955 

ATTRACTIVE tall honest guy, 48, polite, respectful with GSOH, seeks female for fun/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 371823 

MARK 43, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, kind, caring, likes sports, music, meals out, seeks special lady with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376255 

SINGLE guy, seeks nice lady for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364395 

MIKE 49, slim, young looks, seeks female, 35-50 for friendship and going out. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356551 

DEREK genuine, honest, caring male, 70, likes music, gardening, socialising, holidays, seeks attractive lady, 55-70 for special relationship. N Shropshire. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 376151 

SUKHI 40, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 374171 

DAVID 54, 5ft 9ins, seeks female, 22-58 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905

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01588 620521 / 07918 616366.

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

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2002, MPV, wheelchair ramp, seats 4 plus disabled person in chair, 42,000 miles, fsh, full MoT. £2,450.
0121 544 8864 / 07971 188825.

CITROEN XSARA PICCASO 1.6 Desire, 2005, 30,000 miles, light blue, 8 months MoT, 2 months tax, excellent condition, £3,250 ono. 01902 894777.

DAIHATSU TERIOS
2000, five door, hatchback, metallic black and grey, 1.3i petrol, 63,920 miles, excellent condition, fsh.
£1,600.
01384 572806 or 0763 037206.

FORD FUSION 2 (1.6 2003/53), petrol, 88k miles, 2 lady owners from new, silver metallic, air, fsh, CD, full MoT, £1,850 ono.
01650 521627.

FORD FIESTA STILE, 2006, 5dr, 25,000 miles, black full MoT. £3,200. 01902 635671.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
FORD FIESTA ZETEC (CLIMATE)
08 reg, 12,500 miles, blue, MoT, metallic paint, tax.
£5,995.
07779 705999.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
FORD FIESTA ZETEC (CLIMATE)
08 reg, 12,500 miles, blue, MoT, metallic paint, tax.
£5,995.
07779 705999.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI
2005, 77,000 miles, MoT and tax to Apr 12, denim blue with black leather seats Sony 6 CD player, non-smoker, 1 owner, recall mod made and new turbo shaft fitted.
£3,950 ono.
07891 802313.

FORD FOCUS ST170, 3 door, black, speed, 53 plate, 10 months MoT, £2,700. Telephone 07779 592985.

FORD FUSION 2.1 hatchback, 02 reg, black, 10 months MoT, 35,000 miles, good condition. £1,850 ono. 07966 777107.

FORD KA STYLE 1.3L
07 reg, metallic black, 15,500 miles, 4 months tax, 9 months MoT, CD, radio, e/w.
£3,395.
Telephone 01902 305656 or 07811 568363.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI, Silver, 2007, grey, 115,000 miles, fsh, touch screen sat nav, bluetooth, climate, cruise, 6cd, very good condition, £5,950 ono. 01746 762191.

FORD JAZZ 1.4 CVT, auto, Oct 2003, silver, 41,000 miles, F.W. SR, E.M. fsh, tax/MoT, 4 new tyres, £4,995. 01902 858900.

HYUNDAI MATRIX CDX 1.8, 2005
Metallic silver, 23,000 miles, Petrol, alloys, A/C, CD player. Full leather interior, PSH, 5 mths Tax, 11 mths MoT.
£2,500.
07989 459305

JAGUAR XTYPE
Auto, 99/T, metallic mint green, all usual refinements, tax/MoT, superb condition.
£2,200 ono.
07954 177136 / 01902 675203.

JAGUAR XF 2.7 D LUXURY
2008, 54,000 miles, massive spec, too much to list, many factory extras, immaculate condition, long MoT, tax.
Post part ex, 4X4, Pickup, Estate between £10,000 to £15,000.
£18,450 o.n.o.
07970 511743
No Canvassers or Agencies

MERCEDES SLK 200 Compressor, V reg, silver, automatic, 82k miles, tax/MoT, service history. £2,999. 07771 231917.

BMW 523iE, T reg, silver, grey leather, fsh, 121k, full electrics, metallic black and white, MoT, £1,595 ono. 07901 762131.

This Could Be Yours
JEEP CHEROKEE CRD SPORT
Fetish Green, Manual, 72k fsh, good condition and reliable, two owners from new. Registered 03/06 on lower tax band, CL, Alloys, AC, electric windows, CD, abs, and traction stability control, MoT 11th March 2012.
tax till end Feb 2012.
£6,700 ono.
Brighthorn
01746 862 556 or 07710 260824.

MINI COOPER, (03), tax/MoT, red with white roof, EW, CL, nice clean car, reluctant sale, £2,295. 01902 673406 / 07799 203283.

MINI COOPER, 2004, 75,000 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, 4 doors, CD player, petrol, £4,500. 01384 517173.

MINI ONE 1.6, 54 reg, 43,500 miles, blue, e/w, em, air, fsh, tax and MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, £4,995. 07974 327492.

MITSUBISHI COLT C22 Auto, 07 reg, 8,400 miles, MoT, FSH, 5dr, blue, excellent condition, warranty, £4,300 ono. 01384 212369.

MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR 2.5 TD
2003, Black with carrier boy, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, 69k, FSH, E/W, E/M, alarm etc.
Excellent condition.
£5,950.
01902 671455 or 07811 410231.

MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR 2.5 TD
2003, Black with carrier boy, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, 69k, FSH, E/W, E/M, alarm etc.
Excellent condition.
£5,550 o.n.o.
01902 671455 or 07811 410231.

MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR, 2003, black, manual, with top, black, 18k, EW, EM, CL, abs, 752590 or 07762 381833.

NISSAN NAVARA 2.5 DCi SE
56 plate 2006, black, 3 owners from new, FSH, Tax Feb 2012, 27,800 miles, Feb 2012, good condition.
£9,150 no VAT.
07557 325099.

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£9,150 no VAT.
07557 325099.

RENAULT MEGANE Expression, 03, 88k, blue, 9 months MoT, fsh, good condition and reliable, two owners from new. Registered 03/06 on lower tax band, CL, Alloys, AC, electric windows, CD, abs, and traction stability control, MoT 11th March 2012.
tax till end Feb 2012.
£6,700 ono.
Brighthorn
01746 862 556 or 07710 260824.

RENAULT MEGANE Scenic, 03, 88k, blue, 9 months MoT, fsh, good condition and reliable, two owners from new. Registered 03/06 on lower tax band, CL, Alloys, AC, electric windows, CD, abs, and traction stability control, MoT 11th March 2012.
tax till end Feb 2012.
£6,700 ono.
Brighthorn
01746 862 556 or 07710 260824.

RENAULT SCENIC RX2, 02, 77,000 miles, diesel, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, £2,395 ono. 0784 842327.

RENAULT TWINGO 1149CC, 2011, 276 miles, full insurance, accept £3,295. 01952 615001. 07976 565775.

ROVER 75 1.8 Connoisseur, Auto, 2004 reg, metallic gold, 50k miles, one previous owner, fsh, £2,200. Call 07766 393064.

ROVER 75 diesel, 2006, silver, excellent condition, complete, taxed, MoT March 2012, 53,000 miles, £4,250. 01922 445548.

SAAB 93 LINEA 1.9 TD SPORT
54 reg, electricity, computer, air bags, CD, 6-sp, mid grey. Immaculate, £2,395 ono. 07944 970594.

SAAB 93 VECTOR SPORT
1.9TD
06 reg, full leather, pas, CL, EW, alloy wheels, AC, cruise control, rear parking sensor, onboard computer, black, 2 owners, £3,495 ono.
07779 556567.

SKODA FABIA 1.2 SILVERLINE LIMITED EDITION
2003, 53 reg, 46,000 miles, only 1 former keeper, pacific blue metallic, pas, r/c, e/w, alloy wheels, etc, full MoT Group 2 insurance, looks and drives superb.
£2,795.
Telephone 01902 661115 or 07946 587290.

SKODA FABIA 1.2 SILVERLINE LIMITED EDITION
2003, 53 reg, 46,000 miles, only 1 former keeper, pacific blue metallic, pas, r/c, e/w, alloy wheels, etc, full MoT Group 2 insurance, looks and drives superb.
£2

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vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash. Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call. 01562 711083 / 07831 245313. WANTED Cheap LPG or diesel car / Jeep or Discovery, cash waiting. Call 07798 625942.



jobs

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STEEL ERECTOR required, must have CSCS and IPAS cards and own transport. Must also be willing to work out of town. Telephone Jay 07776 215486.

childcare

KIDS KORNER DAY NURSERY Halesowen require enthusiastic qualified Nursery Nurse. Experience preferred. Please call Karen or Heather on 0121 602 0022.

courses

TOP GEAR DRIVER TRAINING
MOVING and B+E Training
Interactive Car Courses
Drive CPC
FREE ASSESSMENTS
1-1 tuition
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
01322 455514
01322 455514

BILLY THOMAS HGV DRIVER TRAINING
B+E (CAR & TRAILER),
THEORY, CPC TRAINING
1-2-1 TUITION
CALL 01902 744726
OR 07831 646601

employment wanted

BRICKLAYER SEEKSEmployment, walls, extensions, anything considered. 07946 630554

nursing & carers

PART TIME NURSE required for St. Margaret's Well Surgery - Halesowen. Experience required in general nursing duties and chronic disease management. For more information please contact 0121 504 0135. Closing date: October 7, 2011.



property

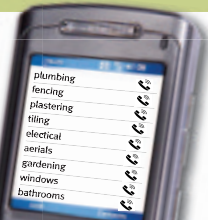
accommodation to let

DOUBLE ROOM TO LET
BLACKHEATH
B&B, 1/2-1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 1/21, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24, 1/25, 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 1/29, 1/30, 1/31, 1/32, 1/33, 1/34, 1/35, 1/36, 1/37, 1/38, 1/39, 1/40, 1/41, 1/42, 1/43, 1/44, 1/45, 1/46, 1/47, 1/48, 1/49, 1/50, 1/51, 1/52, 1/53, 1/54, 1/55, 1/56, 1/57, 1/58, 1/59, 1/60, 1/61, 1/62, 1/63, 1/64, 1/65, 1/66, 1/67, 1/68, 1/69, 1/70, 1/71, 1/72, 1/73, 1/74, 1/75, 1/76, 1/77, 1/78, 1/79, 1/80, 1/81, 1/82, 1/83, 1/84, 1/85, 1/86, 1/87, 1/88, 1/89, 1/90, 1/91, 1/92, 1/93, 1/94, 1/95, 1/96, 1/97, 1/98, 1/99, 1/100, 1/101, 1/102, 1/103, 1/104, 1/105, 1/106, 1/107, 1/108, 1/109, 1/110, 1/111, 1/112, 1/113, 1/114, 1/115, 1/116, 1/117, 1/118, 1/119, 1/120, 1/121, 1/122, 1/123, 1/124, 1/125, 1/126, 1/127, 1/128, 1/129, 1/130, 1/131, 1/132, 1/133, 1/134, 1/135, 1/136, 1/137, 1/138, 1/139, 1/140, 1/141, 1/142, 1/143, 1/144, 1/145, 1/146, 1/147, 1/148, 1/149, 1/150, 1/151, 1/152, 1/153, 1/154, 1/155, 1/156, 1/157, 1/158, 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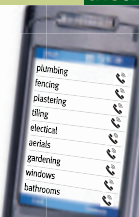
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SPORT

DK dig in to snatch the victory

DK fielded an unchanged side for the third week running with Luke Greenwood (FR), Tom Bissell (BR) and Stefan Shillingford (Centre), back from injury, on the bench.

DK lost possession at the kick off and almost immediately conceded a penalty that was converted by Hinckley scrum half Tom Short. Then DK scored when the ball was spun quickly down the line to Duncan Chance who touched down his debut try (u/c) for DK for the visitors to lead 3-5.

Hinckley's Tom Short regained the lead

HINCKLEY 9 DUDLEY KINGSWINFRD 33

for them with a 16th minute penalty. DK strayed offside on 29 minutes and Tom Short kicked an easy three points for the home side to increase their lead to 9-5 at half time. From a scrum the ball flew down the line to MoM Simon Fletcher who strode in unopposed on 52 minutes. Jon Higgins converted to put DK back ahead at 9-12.

The visitors administered a killer blow following heavy home pressure. The Hinck-

ley full back, in attempting a clearance kick, only managed to hit Stefan Shillingford who seized on the loose ball to sprint 40 metres to the line. Jon Higgins again converted to put DK 9-19 ahead on 57 minutes.

DK now poured forward and claimed the bonus point with a fourth try after 62 minutes. Matt Farrington went wide on the left and the winger scored in the corner. Jon Higgins' fine conversion from touch made it 9-26 in DK's favour.

Stefan Shillingford powered over for his second and DK's fifth and final try.

WIN FOR OLD HILL WRAPS UP SEASON

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

OLD HILL CRICKET CLUB
Old Hill (24 points) 134-2 beat Kenilworth Wardens (1 point) 130 by 8 wickets.

The First XI lying third in the Table, played hosts to fourth placed Kenilworth in the final game of the season at Haden Hill with both sides needing to claim 24 points to gatecrash the top two in the Birmingham League to realise their dreams of promotion.

Yet again, there was heavy overnight rain but the game started promptly with the visitors winning the toss and electing to bat. In only his second game for the First XI, 16-year-old Connor Smith bowled beautifully in his initial 7 overs by claiming the top three batsmen for just 23 runs as Kenilworth were left struggling on 41-3 wickets.

Stimsu Kotak (16) was then joined by Sam Wood (25) and they took the score to 86 before a flurry of wickets by Ashraf Hussain and Nigel Davenport reduced the visitors to 113-9 wickets.

The last pair of Daniel Wood (23) and Alistair Wilkinson (16 not out) then hit out to get the score up to 130 before being parted by leading bowler "Sharkey" Hussain, his 49th wicket of the season, as Kenilworth were all out in 36.1 overs.

Davenport took 3-32 and Hussain 4-33 giving good backing to Smith-an excellent effort by the home side's bowling attack. In reply, Old Hill's opening pair of Mike Hingley (24) and Captain Nathan Round (51) quickly compiled a half century stand before Round was first out to a leading edge with 66 runs on the board.

Hingley soon followed his Captain back to the pavilion before Danny Cox (28 not out) and Nitesh Patel (29 not out) saw the home side to 134-2 wickets and an easy victory with another unbroken half century partnership as Old Hill won by 8 wickets to take the maximum 24 points they required.

Nathan Round finished the season in a rich vein of form as he amassed a total of 349 runs in his last 4 innings for once out. With the game finishing just after 4.30pm and Old Hill sitting in second place in the League, attention then focused on the Brockhampton v Evesham game.

At this point the news was good from Old Hill's point of view as the teams were off for rain with only one innings completed and the cut off of 5.15pm for resumption fast approaching, the home supporters were optimistic.

Finally, the dreaded words filtered through that "play had resumed" and Brockhampton gained enough points to overtake Old Hill's points tally by 4 to seal promotion. The hosts final tally of 328 points in a season was a record for the Club but unfortunately not enough. It was also Old Hill's sixth consecutive home win-a valiant effort.

Sunday September 18
Shrewsbury (5 points) Old Hill (5 points) abandoned.
The Second XI made the long journey to Shrewsbury for the final game of the season, rescheduled for Sunday due to the hosts participation in the National Knockout Cup Final on Saturday. However, on arrival at the ground it was obvious to Captain Mo Javaid and his players that they were the only people ready to fulfill the fixture.

After a number of frantic telephone calls it was established that due to a gross misunderstanding and a lack of communication, the game had been designated by the Birmingham League as "abandoned" with 5 points awarded to each team.

This was a disappointing end to a magnificent season back in the Premier League with the very young side adapting very well to the higher standard of cricket required to maintain their status.

They more than held their own to finish in a credible fourth position having accumulated 276 points.

Derek Griffiths

Fightback for Robins falters

WEST MIDLANDS (REGIONAL) LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Black Country Rangers 4 Dudley Town 3

Dudley Town came to the brink of one of the greatest comebacks in their almost 125 year history as at 4-0 down with 18 minutes remaining they pushed Black Country Rangers all the way with three late goals.

The result which took the hosts to the top of the table was sadly marred by an unsavoury incident in the final five minutes of the contest.

The visitors did not seem overwhelmed by the hosts recent good form and were quickly into them with Nikki Faux, Todd Warner and Ben Stretton all putting the pressure on Rangers' experienced backline.

Although on top, The Robins were caught out on nine minutes. Former Prestatyn Town centre forward Steve Bowes beat the offside trap and his pedigree showed with a classy finish - stroking the ball past Luke Cunningham.

It was somewhat rough justice that Dudley would go two behind just three minutes shy of the break. Again the impressive Bowes finished after some superb solo work to get himself into a prime shooting position in the penalty area.

Following the break Dudley had a golden opportunity to change the dynamics of the game. When Faux was fouled in the box Chris Whittaker could only pull out a save from Jamie Wood with the resulting spot-kick.

Tiv's slow start forces them to make comeback

Dunkirk 1 Tivdale 1

TIVIDALE'S slow start to their Midland Alliance game at Dunkirk was in keeping with a journey to Nottingham littered with traffic delays.

Before they had got going they found themselves a goal behind when a deep cross from the touchline found the unmarked Lee Day who gave goalkeeper Tim Beach no chance with a well-placed header from six yards out.

The goal was a wake-up call for the visitors, whose passing game was initially interrupted by some aggressive tackles by Dunkirk.

It took until the 12th minute before Adam Hill and then Matt Jukes tested Dunkirk keeper James Mountain.

Mountain then saved well from full-back midfielder Adam Hill in quick succession.

At the other end, Dunkirk rarely threatened and goalkeeper Beach was untroubled.

In the 32nd minute, the hard-working Matt Jukes set up Hill for a shot which was pushed round the post by Mountain.

Jukes was causing the home defence

Black Country made Dudley pay a high price for the miss with two quick goals. First of all Bowes lashed in a shot from the edge of the area following a disputed retake of a free-kick on 52 minutes whilst just 120 seconds later it had appeared the high-flying hosts had made the game comfortable for themselves when Andy Price broke clear to make it 4-0.

All credit must go to Dudley for their refusal to lie down. When Burgess tweaked his side with the additions of Kevin Hadlington, Anthony Cox and Rion Francis-Mills The Robins moved swiftly into gear.

Charged

On 72 minutes yet another fine solo goal was scored, this time from Adam Cross when he charged through from midfield and planted a firm strike past Wood. Then just seconds later it was 4-2 when Ludlow and Hadlington combined.

Dudley who had looked good value all game were starting to get their just rewards and the Black Country boat was rocking with just 11 minutes to go when Hadlington cashed in on a loose ball after Wood had pulled off a fine save from substitute Cox.

With just five minutes to go, what had been a highly entertaining fixture turned sour, when a scuffle between two Black Country Rangers players brought the involvement of a member of the crowd.

With the situation dealt with it appeared the incident had taken the wind out of Dudley's sails.

concern and in the 42nd minute his sharp cross was turned just wide at the near post by the lively Chris Russell.

The second half began as the first ended and in no time Tivdale's Hill shot just over.

From a succession of corners Jason Chilton and Adam Wattleby both blasted over the bar when in promising situations.

It was appearing to be one of those days for Tivdale and they nearly paid the penalty for failing to convert possession and territory into goals when Day almost got on the end of a Bertram header after a Dunkirk free-kick.

Relief, however, came almost immediately for the visitors when full-back Robert Sargent was brought down by McCormick's lunging tackle and the referee awarded the inevitable penalty.

Chris Russell stepped up and confidently despatched the ball low into the corner of the net past the diving Mountain.

From then on it was one-way but poor finishing meant Tivdale had to settle for a point.

Four in 10 was enough

Old Halesonians 1st XI 1 Sutton Coldfield 5

Old Halesonians Hockey 1st XI fell to a flattering 5-1 defeat against Sutton Coldfield.

Hales lost concentration, and found themselves 1-0 down. Going behind always seems to motivate the Hales side, and they soon equalised through Paul Woodall. The home side scored 4 goals in around 10 minutes, as Hales went into self defeat.

Old Halesonians 2nd XI suffered a large defeat at the hands of local rivals Kingswinford. Hales lacked motivation and passion which finally saw them fall to a 7-3 defeat.

Old Halesonians 3rd XI game versus Kingswinford was another high scoring thriller, which saw Hales leave with a 6-3 victory over their Dudley rivals. Hales 3rd XI remain the only unbeaten side in pre-season.

Old Halesonians 5th XI fell to a 5-1 defeat versus Cannock, whilst the Ladies suffered a similar fate with a 5-0 loss to Badsey.

Old Halesonians Badgers gained a 5-2 victory against Kingswinford, which showcased some of the best youth hockey players in the borough.

SPEEDWAY

Heathens off to Oz

Dudley Heathens riders Asley Morris and Tom Perry are heading down under on the speedway trip of a lifetime.

The teenagers have both been selected for places on the prestigious Darren and Sharon Bocoock Speedway Scholarship and will fly out to Queensland, Australia next month.

The non-profit organisation, administered by former rider Marcus Williams, helps young British riders gain experience in the fiercely competitive Australian solo scene.

Fortunes mixed for the Hawks

BOYS LEAGUE

Oldswinford 3 Hales Hawks 3
The U9s East had a heart-stopping match against Oldswinford with both teams very evenly balanced. It was end to end stuff with both teams coming from behind and then leading at different times of the match. A 3-3 draw was the end result with Hales goals coming from Harry Beasley, Liam Jones and Jack Whitehouse. An excellent defensive show from Dan Richards earned him MoM.

Hales Hawks West 4 Dudley 0
The U9s West started this game very nervously and we were on the back foot for the first 10 minutes but Dudley Town were unable to take advantage. Harvey Brookes opened the scoring with the others coming from Jayke Adams, Anthony Andreou and another from Brookes. The second half saw a few scary moments and James Exall had to be very alert to make two smart saves, but Hales held on for a 4-0 win. Altrin Alshigi won the MoM.

Gornal Colts 1 Hales Hawks 2
The U10s East travelled to Gornal for their third away game on the trot and another good solid team performance followed, which saw them go behind before coming back to win 2-1 with goals from a Donovan Westwood and Oliver Miller. MoM went jointly to Donovan Westwood and Charlie Greening.

Hales Hawks West 0 Sedgley Scorpions 5
Sedgley took control of the game against the U10s West from the start with some strong attacking play and took an early lead. MoM went to Jack Bissell.

Stourbridge Glassboys 2 Hales Hawks 9
The U12s travelled to Stourbridge Glassboys North winning 9-2 with a double hat-trick from Mohammed Mohammed, two from Matthew Evans and one from man of the match Nick Bennett.

Trysull Tigers East 2 Hales Hawks 2
The U13s earned their first point of the season in an entertaining draw with Trysull Tigers East. Hales started brightly and took the lead by Jamie Theodosi. The second half started with Hales on top and they extended their lead through Shane Billingham. Hales then switched off and let Trysull back into it earning a point with a late equaliser.

Gornal Colts South 4 Hales Hawks 3
A close match saw the U14s go 2-0 up before half time but Gornal hit back after the break to score four. Hales fought back with Dominic Hippis completing his hat-trick. MoM was Jack Guest.

West Hagley 1 Hales Hawks 3
A scrappy first half in this U17s game against West Hagley saw both teams creating few chances and going into the break at 0-0. West Hagley went 1-0 up early in the second half but an equalising goal seemed the turning point for the Hales lads. Goal scorers were Joe Powell, Matt Ross and a late penalty from Ben Hughes.

GIRLS LEAGUE
Hales Hawks 6 Gornal 11




No one could complain about the lack of goals when the U14s entertained Gornal. However, it was always an uphill struggle for Hales who conceded within minutes against a much stronger Gornal. The final score was an 11-6 win for Gornal with Hales goals coming from Sophie Pritchard (4), Amy Blakemore and Mia Bell.

Hales Hawks 3 Withymoor 1
Hales Hawks U15s girls met Withymoor and a fantastic debut from goalkeeper, Hannah Shearwood, helped them to a 3-1 win in their first game of the season. Two good goals from Danielle Lawrence followed by an excellent goal scored by Charlie Maguire ensured the win.

Droitwich Spa 4 Hales Hawks 0
The U16s began their season slowly against Droitwich and lost the game in the first 20 minutes when the damage had been done in a 4-0 defeat. They stepped up a notch in the second half but failed to find the net. Player of the match was Liz McAlleenan.

Ladies
The Hales Hawks Ladies team travelled to Birmingham Medics and were looking comfortable at 3-1 up with goals from Tash Berry, Gemma College and Katie Monk, but Medics came back with two late goals against the run of play to earn a 3-3 draw.

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